CBS Hottelet . 1300 31 October 1944

Prime Minister Churchill issued a warning this morning to people who've been too optimistic about the end of the war. Speaking in Parliament he said that he was not counting on a political uprising in Germany and that on military grounds it was hard to believe that the war here would be over before Christmas or even Easter. And even after that, the Prime Minister said, it'll probably be another eighteen months at least before the war in the Far East is ended.

In Western Europe the main weight of the fighting/this morning is still on the extreme left flank of the front - in southwestern Holland. Here the Battle of the Scheldt estuary - the battle for the use of the port of Antwerp - is in full swing, but it does look now as if it were going into its last stage. Canadian forces have pushed across Beveland and have xxx only one more island to go - the island of Walcheren. When they take this, and when they clear out the German pocket still remaining on the southern bank of the river's mouth, the port of Antwerp will be free of enemy fire. It will probably not be able to handle much freight immediately because the Germans have undoubtedly left it heavily mined; and the river bed will need dredging. But the city of Antwerp, with its fourteen miles of modern docks is a strategic prize of the highest importance. It can handle as much freight as both Normandie beachheads, and if you look at a map you will see how much closer it is to the fighting fronts. --- Hitler well,realizes that possession of Antwerp would assure the supplies neededxxxxx to sustain even a winter offensive by our northern armies, and he has once more told his suicide forces to hold out to the end. --- Exactly when this end will come is guesswork. But even the Germans admit it won't be much longer. The German official news agency said that it was expecting a final combined attack by our naval and airborne formations at any time.

While we're fighting to gain Antwep as a supply head, we're also striking heavy blows to destroy the German supply lines into the next great battlefield west of the Rhine. Last night RAF bomber command sent more than a thousand planes to drop another fourthousand tons of bombs on the shattered bridgehead city of Cologne.

That's probably why lots of people read the reports from the European
now
front/almost with annoyance that there should still be a European
and turn much of their attention
front, ~~Thatxxprobablyxwhy and turn~~/to political disputes - the
question of ~~the~~ a coming general election,of what to do with Germany,
repairing for winter almost a million damaged houses in London alone,
the matter of delays in ~~providing badly needed homes for bombed out families,~~
restiveness
of postwar civil aviation/and things like that. It's a ~~[illegible]~~
that seems
a lot like the ~~pre~~ atmosphere before D Day. ~~But~~ And its general effect
is to make everyone more than ever want to get the war over with as
humanly
soon as possible.

I return you now to General Electric in New York.

or 50:45

CBS Hottelet 2348:30 30 October 1944

When you come back to London after only two months you feel almost as if you'd come back to a strange city. Physically it's much the same -- the sky is the same lifeless gray, the food is as monotonous, ~~there~~ you notice just about as many American soldiers around even though most of the big headquarters have moved to Europe. And you ~~still~~ hear the explosions of buzzbombs at odd hours to remind you that London is still a front line town. But ~~xxxxx~~ there ~~'s~~ is a changed spirit - and when you prowl around to find just what it is, you come to the conclusion that it's mainly the fact two months have passed and that England is standing on the threshold of its sixth winter of war. ~~Thisxxxx~~ ~~Its~~ It's not ~~spiritxisxnot~~ war weariness. It's hard to explain. It's like a tired marathon runner who's put on a terrific spurt to carry him over the finish line - and then stops with heart pounding and lungs gasping for air to find that he isn't over the finish line at all, that he's got to start running again to wind up the race. Two months ago people here were arguing whether ~~xx~~ the war would be over in September / or whether it would drag on into October; / they thought the taking of the French channel coas would stop the doodlebugs; they thought the blackout would be lifted. But here it is almost November and life is no less dreary - on the contrary, they've been having ~~terrible~~ exceptionally bad weather here; and the prospect of another English war winter is no pleasant ~~x~~ one. ~~There are~~ ~~hundredsxof~~ ~~nearly a million houses~~ ~~thousandsxofxhouses~~ ~~in London damaged by flying bombs alone, and the need for homes is pressing. That's one of~~ ~~the things~~ ~~several topics that seems to be~~

A2

~~"Everything at present unfolding on the battlefields of western Europe is a prelude to a major offensive for which both the twentyfirst British and the Twelfth American Army Groups are still preparing."~~

3 November 1944 1300

LEAD LEAD

The air war flared up to a new peak yesterday WHEN ~~appr~~ almost ~~MORE THAN~~ THREE THOUSAND ~~British~~ American and British Bombers hit central and western Germany inside 12 hours. ---1100 Forts and Liberators with 900 escorting fighters of the Eigth Air Force struck at the great Leuna synthetic oil plant at Merseburg, and at transport centers. --- The Germans concentrated almost five hundred fighters to defend these vital targets -- and in bitter air fighting and ground strafing lost 208 of them. This is the greatest success the Eigth Air Force has yet had in air combat. Our own losses have turned out to be less then first reported and now stand at forty bombers and nineteen fighters.

Later in the afternoon RAF Lancasters hit an oil plant at Homberg and then, just after dark, more than 1000 RAF bombers delivered another roundhouse punch at the great industrial center and transport hub of Duesseldorf.

The RAF and the Eighth Air Force together are ~~paving~~ (helping pave) the way for the winter offensive.

②

~~OBS Hottelet 1300 3 November 1944~~

In Western Europe the fighting is still centered about the mouth of the Scheldt - but we're watching the progress of the ~~First~~ General Hodges' American push southeast of Aachen.

The Battle for the Schedlt estuary seems to be going into its final stage now. On the flooded island of Walcheren the Germans ~~admit~~ announce that we have captured the destroyed port of Flushing. ~~And elsewhere on the rim of the island that the RAF has left above water Canadian forces are advancing.~~ ~~South~~ On the south side of the estuary all resistance east of the Leopold Canal has ended, we are mopping up in Zeebrugge and Canadian troops ~~ar~~ have entered Knocke.

Over across Belgium the American First Army started to push out of the Huertgen forest early yesterday, and has advanced almost two miles. Resistance is now said to be stiffening.

~~Both~~ These two operations are limited in scale and apparently in their objectives. But both of them are given a new importance by President Roosevelt's admission yesterday ~~that we are not planning in terms of a winter~~ that the war in western Europe will be fought all through the winter. They are both preliminaries - essential preliminaries to really largescale action. ~~The great port of Antwerp - the second largest in Europe - is needed to handle the supplies that a general offensive will consume. And the First Army, in clearing out the Huertgen Forest is getting itself a better tactical jump off position. The American Third Army, too, has made a small advance northeast of Nancy and cleaned out a river bend and two small towns for much the same purpose.~~

~~The Germans may have the right idea when they say -~~

CBS Hottelet 2346 2 November 1944

The British are a quiet people, ~~[illegible]~~ you MIGHT ~~you~~ call them placid. They prefer to do one thing at a time - and that one thing slowly and thoroughly. That's what makes it all the more noteworthy that right now they're concentrating ~~not~~ ~~trying to concentrate~~ and getting excited about on half a dozen things. ~~at the same time. And not only concentrating about them, but tending to get downright excited.~~ ~~Mainly the one thing they have to do with the war~~ Along with all the political and military news that's active part of winning the war, you find individuals and politicians and newspapers very much preoccupied with switching over to peacetime ~~production~~ operation. And it's a nervous, almost testy preoccupation as if they thought ~~that~~ they were losing too much time ~~and about~~ IN getting started. --- The ~~six~~ International Aviation Conference in Chicago is one example. ~~A British~~ Robert Waithman, ~~correspondent~~ reporting back to the News Chronicle says that ~~watching~~ seeing the American ~~a~~ plan gives Britons the uncomfortable sensation of using a wheelbarrow to compete with a bulldozer. -- And in the field of international trade voices are raised to complain that Britain is losing too much time in getting back ~~in~~ her export markets, and angry deputations have gone to the British Board of Trade to loosen up restrictions on export licenses.

~~Purely~~ An important domestic ~~one~~ question that's generating a good bit of heat right now is the conversion of British war industry and the reemployment of war workers. And there's nothing academic about this one. Yesterday more than 8000 workers whose ~~are~~ AIRPLANE BUILDING jobs are coming to an end -- the British call them "redundant" war workers -- 8000 of them demon-

PRESS JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

CABLED HODGES PIECE TODAY STOP PLEASE SIGN ME AS CBS WAR CORRESPONDENT OR WHATEVER PAUL WHITE WANTS STOP RECOMMEND USE PIECE SOON ~~[illegible]~~ STOP FYI WE NOW HAVE BABY DAUGHTER STOP TELL MARK HANNA CHEERS

RICHARD CEE HOTTELET

25 October 1944

COLLECT
PRESS /JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK 25 October 1944

hottelet unistates first army stop lieutgeneral courtney aitch hodges picked himself exsidewalk etoffwhacked dust exuniform stop someone else might not have bothered but general is painstakingly neat his appearance stop twas good june morning when westeuropean battlefield still beachhead etgermartillery was landing frontline town of Caumont para by time general etaide got adbattalion command post they had flattened on sidewalk six times as germshells cracked into buildings para battalion officers waiting at cp repeat cp stop they made reports etshowed him their maps etpolitely referred artillery fire stop when first formal fifteen minutes elapsed they stood around first army deputy commander in slightly bentforward attitude of men expecting their big boss say quote well eye guess we be going unquote para but general unshowed signs leaving stop major william sylvan of ________________ comma his aide comma looked watch etmentally junked morning schedule stop hodges kept asking questions in his low georgia drawl etwanting precise details of just who was doing just what etwhere stop shells kept incoming stop finally he shook hands etleft stop as they made way back jeepwards he halfturned towards sylvan etgrinned wryly quote eye know we stayed there too long stop but when eye was battalion commander last war it always tickled me when brass came up and all hell popped loose stop so eye stayed today to let the youngsters enjoy it unquote more - richard hottelet

PRESS COLLECT JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

add hottelet this always keeping other man and his point view in mind is way hodges works in big things wells small stop it secret of smooth functioning of as successful a command team as you can find on any battlefront world para general himself is close adtop his profession stop battles his army fought south seine etthen across france belgium breathless succession to carry it first into germany etfirst across siegfried line will long remembered as examples cold etdaring strategy stop responsibility each move was his stop final decision every major many minor problems rested him stop but comma ethe first admit it comma the smooth planning etdirection of first armys race germanyward was bor exclosest interaction him etstaff para hodges is southern gentleman dash softspoken comma wellmannered stop he looks one too dash small wiry cumdeep lines face from outdoor life comma closecropped silver hair etmustache stop his hazel eyes friendly etsmile is easy but he quiet man comma reticent adpoint being shy etthis reserve sets tone headquarters para there no backslapping joviality cumhodges stop but there practically no heelclicking punctilio either stop whether headquarters in wood ~~field~~ or field up kneesward mud dash as often was during autumn undash or caked cumdust comma or in polished baroque salons of chateau there is very businesslike but firendly air about it stop an army commander has little time get know anyone except senior officers cumwhom works etthese men are hodges friends stop he calls them viafirst names stop they call him general more -- richard hottelet

PRESS COLLECT JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

THIRD hottelet you get feel of headquarters best at dinner stop when tactical situation allows hodges likes sit at table cumomnistaff for hour or hour half stop it not the food because general hardly cares what he eats longs he has plenty coffee stop conversation there is his only relaxation para when mess is at one big table hodges sits its head stop omniofficers dash about fifteen undash wear field dress uniforms consisting battle jacket ettrousers stop general has very decided opinions how his officers should look stop he himself always immaculately dressed etunapproves people quote looking rugged unquote cumcombat clothing etone day beards unless they in rugged surroundings stop headquarters mess usually is not stop way he got officers to dress ~~pxxdi~~ prodinner was characteristic stop he uncomplained loudly or issued orders stop he just used sit back in chair etlook around mess etdrawl cumsmile quote eyem going updress you fellows if its last thing eye do unquote stop they took hint para only requirement conversation is that makes sense stop usually it shop talk comma which natural cummen who interested fighting winning war moren anything else stop usually tables ~~xtx~~ cease talking when general begins stop not so here stop there usually three or four separate conversations going full swing stop every once in while hodges will fall quiet put fresh cigarette into black holder etjust listen to snatches talk that downdrift himwards more - richard hottelet

PRESS COLLECT JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

fourth hottelet now etthen he will tell stories his niggame hunting trips mexico canada indochina or get into discussion how soldiers uniforms could improved by abolition leggings etfewer jackets worn one atop other stop he is easy talker ethis deep resonant voice pleasant hear and though he now never gets chance read he is obviously cultured man stop after dinner he etstaff go back work para general works fourteen hours daily stop individual members staff even more but it stimulating work stop hodges wants staff be both creative and expansive dash to originate plans and procedures as well as carry out his orders stop would have very little use promen whose main qualification was facility at mechanical detail stop he wants them think etgives them omniopportunity put their ideas into practice stop has thus stimulated and applied ideas techniques which were major importance first armys dramatic sweep france lowlands para one great decisions hodges had make was postfall paris stop gasoline supply began falter stop pattons third army east paris had reached point where brigadier generals were sent out to crossroads to hijack supply convoys stop hodges comma having just liquidated falaise pocket was ordered race after routed germarmies etprevent them reforming somme stop but could hardly move much less race para hodges discussed matter cumstaff stop his gee four parenthesis supply unparenthesis colonel robert wilson philadelphia penn recommended taking field artillerys transport etsending it beachward progas more - hottelet

PRESS COLLECT JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

FIFTH HOTTELET twas bold proposal because would immobilize artillery
etdowncut ~~ixx~~ armys immediate fighting power stop hodges considered
exabout twenty
etaccepted it comma took trucks/~~xxtwenty~~ battalions artillery comma
added thereto two hundred or threehundred trucks exfrench second
armored division etgot gasoline proarmy para this decision completely
in keeping his doctrine of calculated risk to keep enemy off balance
stop extra gasoline so obtained enabled first army plunge straight
on and over siegfried line before germans ever had chance regroup
and before overextended supply lines once again called halt para
hodges is infantryman and in his thirtyeight years in army which
brought him from private to lieutgeneral he won himself reputation as
theorist ettactician stop butx he had very warm spot heart ~~[illegible]~~
dash
proartillery stop he likes it shoot/in mass etconstantly stop he
knows how much protection it gives infantryman stop all night long
first army fires harassing fire against germroads concentrations
field kitchens to prevent him moving resting feeding stop one night
after saint lo hodges forward headquarters pitched camp amidst corps
and army artillery stop roar concussion guns up to eight inch caliber
almost blew people exbeds stop only one who slept was hodges stop for
more - RICHARD HOTTELET
him artillery was doing job etit music his ears ~~[illegible] officers~~
~~ee hart more~~ = hot
~~closest hodges is handsome graythatched sixfoot briggeneral chas~~/

COLLECT

PRESS / JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

sixth hottelet para one of officers closest hodges is handsome graythatched sixfoot briggeneral chas ee hart of ______________ comma first army artillery officer stop twas he who originated ~~xgxghgdx~~ serenade in africa and developed use 155 mm selfpropelled gun dash two innovations which did very much smooth way from normandie to siegfried line para serenade is code word picked because it easily intelligible telephone radio dash etalso because conveys general idea stop it very special procedure whereby every gun in artillery range fires simultaneously on given target ~~stop it is called on short notice against important targets of opportunity where there is no time downcall planned fire para through complicated radio network all battalions are given x target area and time at which all shells supposed land therein~~ stop idea is strike most powerful first blow before enemy can disperse or get subcover stop all guns get ten fifteen minutes make their adjustments stop since they all different positions at different ranges from target they all fire slightly different times stop but for serenade to be well played all shells of first volley must hit within thirty secondsx para serenades been played number times since normandie but xxxx never more effectively than small area east of aachen early october stop germans been attacking jaws our trap closing around city and they concentrated four divisions to break through and reinforce the city more -

richard hottelet

PRESS COLLECT JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

SEVENTH HOTTELET we had nothing like dour divisions at threatened point stop germforce was spotted and identified and an artillery serenade and dive bombers were called down on it stop prisoners of war later said effect was devastating and they never been hit by such combined power stop threatened germattack never came off para use 155mm selfpropelled guns was also developed to fine science by hart encouraged viahodges stop hart recognized their value as fast mobile weapons of tremendous power and turned them into new brand assault artillery stop assigned to armored divisions these guns have rolled into action cumforward spearheads etfired first shot into germany ~~stop~~ para they found unique field against fortifications and eye have watched them do what would impossible proordinary guns dash crack three heavy germpillboxes cumdirect fire pointblank range 1200 yards comma and move expositions before enemy could open counterbattery fire stop they were used in streets aachen and germcommandant postsurrender said was most terrifying thing meet their fire stop shells would go through three houses prior exploding foursth para freedom general hodges gives members his staff in their special fields has developed limber efficient command team without in least diminishing personal ~~p~~ or professional status of army commander more richard hottelet

PRESS COLLECT J.ALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

EIGHTH HOTTELET xxxx para morning staff conference is representative of way they work together stop it is tactical conference in war room dash specially built thirty foot trailer which general uses even when ~~off~~ headquarters in chateau stop along both windowless side walls are large maps cumshiny acetate overlays and innumerable markings in red and black grease pencil dash our forces comma the enemys comma unit boundaries comma important rearx installations stop one thing you notice is that they have no arrows stop brilliant lights play on both walls and in between comma facing one way or the other are three clubchairs cumorange slipcovers para hodges sits down outpulls cigarette holder exleft breast pocket and crumpled pack cigarettes out of right and begins smoke stop from time gets up to time goes bed he smokes almostbincessantly para conference begins with dynamic little majorgeneral elwood quesada bouncing along map and explaining comma with gestures comma what his ninth tactical air command fighters and fighter bombers did yesterdayx and suggest doing today para then G 3 comma operations comma briggeneral truman cee thorson of __________ goes over tactical side stop G two colonel benjamin aye dickson of phildaelphia penn tells what he knows of enemy strength and enemy plans stop hart reports on his stocks artillery ammunition dash sometimes been melancholy account dash and on progress his fire missions more - richard hottelet

PRESS COLLECT JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

NINTH HOTTELET para hodges just sits listens etinterrupts only to ~~xkx~~ ask ~~whether the kid be well treated stop after~~ question stop postconference he stays behind with gee three and at first sits there silently leaning forward smoking studying map stop then leans back comma looks over to angular thorson and quote tubby comma lets brew some medicine stop lets just think out loud unquote stop then cumgestures towards map he outlines what wants done dash attack here to improve positions comma concentration reinforcements there to meet expected germcounterattack comma pulling unit/over there out of line after weeks of mud and filth and artillery fire para if thorson differs as to timing or units involved he has his say stop once has heard thorsons views comma etperhaps checked ~~dx~~ cumgee four on supply questions or cumordnance officer on equipment hodges makes up mind stop once he done so his word is law etstaff goew about business putting it into effect para unless situation demands more such conferences hodges takes cub or jeep out afternoon visit his corps etdivisions to get flavor of front para picture seldom changes stop whether day is routine or pregnant cumcrisis hodges never nervous stop he never quote colorful unquote stop he no floorpacer orderbarker or get hyphen me hyphen this shouter stop he~~x~~ has cold mind like surgeon and enjoys his work even though he doesnt like war an moren surgeon likes disease more - richard hottele

PRESS COLLECT JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

TENTH HOTTELET hodges can make decisions immediately because never loses track events but he never rushed into snap judgment stop when met germthreat mortain by wheeling his army ninety degrees dash which would been difficultest even on maneuver field undash he never faltered stop etwhen after falaise pocket he leapfrogged army corps until they hardly knew from one day nextward where were hodges just looked quietly at map etquote lets follow flow of battle unquote stop one his officers said quote the general thinks gracefully unquote stop which just about upsums para between seine etgermany hodges had make three quick decisions farreaching strategic importance stop amidst battle south of seine he had [illegible] detail comma hastily comma fourth division to secure paris after germans repudiated their evacuation etarmistice agreement cummaquis para he decided immobilize his artillery to use its transport to bring up gasoline para third major decisions came when we got siegfried line etmade initial punctures stop army was like exhausted raced who just stumbled over tape stop hodges had decide whether onpush nevertheless or sit and ~~up~~ build up para there no telling what history books will say of his choice but from viewpoint men on ground it was wise more -

richard hottelet

PRESS COLLECT JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

ELEVENTH HOTTELET twas remarkable first army ever came far fast as did stop eye saw tanks cumonly ~~of~~ odd patches left/of their rubber treads comma whose engines kept going only from force of habit stop eye saw infantry exhilarated but exhausted hardly knowing ~~what~~ whether asleep or awake stop gas tanks were perpetually half or quarter full comma ammunition had reached point where you could speak of it as preciuos stop forests full germans were being gaily bypassed dash armored divisions thought seriously of changing their mine clear signs to read quote jerries clear to hedges unquote para greatest decision of all dash to do what never been done successfully before and fight largescale campaign western europe in winter ~~w~~ undash was made on higher level stop but when general eisenhower and general bradley made their decision the recommendations of their first army commander weighed heavily enditem -

richard hottelet

Lieutenant General Courtney H. Hodges picked himself up off the sidewalk and whacked the dust off his uniform. It was a good June morning, when the Western European battlefield was still a beachhead; and German artillery was landing in the front-line town of Caumont. ~~He~~ ~~The General understood why the MP at the last crossing had just waved him on and retired to a doorway as if the jeep didn't have the red plate with the three silver stars on the bumpers.~~ ~~Because~~ By the time General Hodges and his aide got to the battalion command post they were visiting they had ~~had~~ ~~been~~ flattened out on the sidewalk ~~six~~ six times as German shells cracked into the buildings.

The battalion commander and the regimental commander were waiting for him at the CP. ~~and seemed almost surprised to see him finally arrive~~. They showed him their maps and told him where the enemy positions were and Politely referred to the ~~shrugged a little as they mentioned~~ the artillery fire. And when the formal fifteen minutes were up they stood around ~~in~~ the First Army Deputy Commander in the slightly bent forward attitude of men expecting to hear their big boss say, "Well, I guess it's time to be going along." But the General showed no sign of wanting to leave. Major William Sylvan, his aide, looked

at his watch and mentally junked the morning's schedule. Hodges kept asking questions and wanting illustrations of just how and just where who was doing what. The shells kept coming in. Finally he left. And as they made their way back to the jeep he halfturned to ~~his aide, Major William~~ Sylvan, and grinned wryly, "I know we stayed there too long; ~~he said~~ but, you know, when I was a battalion commander in the last war it always tickled me when brass came up and all hell ~~broke~~ popped loose. So I stayed there today to let the youngsters ~~get~~ enjoy it."

This is typical of Courtney Hodges, because in all his dealings with people he never loses sight of the other man's point of view, or of his own quiet sense of humor. As Commanding General of the First United States Army, ~~Hodges'~~ his word is law to almost 150,000 soldiers. But The three stars he carries on his shoulder have made him no less willing to listen and learn from anyone. He has a certain deep humility born of broad experience.

This is his third war. Beforehe fought Pancho Villa in Mexico he spent three years in the army as an enlisted man. In the First World War he commanded a battalion of the Sixth Infantry, and won the Distinguished Service Cross for skill and courage

Hodges is that way in big things as well as little. His experience is broad enough to value the other man's point of view. It has brought him close to the very top in his profession. The battles ~~he~~ his Armies fought south of the Seine and then across France and Belgium in breathless succession to carry ~~his Army~~ it frist into Germany and then first across the Siegfried Line will long be remembered as examples of cold and daring strategy. But They were the result of the closest and smoothest interaction between Hodges and his staff. The General ~~will be~~ is the first to call attention to the fact that ~~xxx~~ commanding an Army is like running a very big business. The man on top cannot humanly ~~xxxx~~ begin to deal with the mass of detailx in even one of his many departments. "The Staff", he says ~~General Hodges~~, "makes the General". What he modestly usually forgets to say is that the General also makes the staff. Because the responsibility for everything his Army does is on his shoulders. The final decision for every major, and many minor ~~xxxxxxxx~~ problems ~~is made by~~ rests with him. His staff is a superb instrument for him to wield.

broadly unheralded

(A)

You might expect Courtney Hodges to be an autocrat. It would be human. Some Lieutenant Generals are. His word is almost law to 150,000 soldiers. He could, if he chose, bark out orders send-

ing regiments and divisions into bloody battle. He could depend on himself alone to assess situations, and use his staff as glorified messenger boys./Or he might be colorful. He could shout and pace floprs and allow himself any idiosyncrasy he chose. Because a successful army commander can get away with almost anything.

But, of all the adjectives you could apply to Hodges colorful would not be one. For one thing he does not look colorful. He is a small man, perhaps five feet seven. His neatly combed / ~~gray~~ silver hair and ~~gray~~ mustache are closely cropped. His wiry build and The deep lines in his face are the marks of/ an active life. He has had 38 years of military service, the first three of which he spent in the ranks. He fought in Mexico and won the Distinguished Service Cross in 1918 for an assault across the Meuse River, which he has this time led an Army across. In our peacetime army he won himself a ~~reputation~~ name as a sportsman. He hunted big game in Canada and Mexico; and on his leaves from his station in the Philippines he went to Indo-China to hunt elephant. But he was known as more than a superb rifle shot. He had a reputation as a resourceful tactician. He taught at West Point, and as the Army expanded was given much of the responsibility for turning our citizen soldiers into combat infantry. He never stopped preaching ~~the~~

close cooperation with all other arms - air and artillery mainly. After 1942, as head of the Army Ground Forces Replacement and School Command and as commander of the Third Army, he helped turn our loose knit, hastily gathered armed forces into a terribly effective weapon. He has always been much too deep in something very serious to give him the chance to become colorful. ¶ His last great training job began in January 1944, when Gerneral Marshall sent him to England as Deputy Commander of the First Army.

Here he worked with Omar Bradley, who had been his good friend since 1922. Bradley was mostly in London, already slated to command the First United States Army Group, and tied up with the top planning of the invasion of Europe. In the last five preinvasion months it was Hodges job to train the First Army to the last fine peak of efficiency. Because this Army was to be called upon to do something no Army had ever done in history - cross a hundred miles of open water and storm the most modern fortificatio on a coast which the enemy knew we were going to attack.

He tackled this job with energy and imagination; and his wide experience and mellow humanity saved many an awk-

ward situation. But, like the man, the way he worked was not colorful. He was on the road five days a week, visiting units in the field. He got to know the First Army down to the company commanders. He wanted to, because the lower infantry commanders - mainly the battalion commanders are the tactical backbone of an army.

Much time was spent at the great assault tsaining center at WOOLECOMB ? . Here he stood on the beach, in landing craft, on ~~hi~~ a hill overlooking the shore line, time after time in all weathe , watching combat teams assault the beaches over obstacles and move inland on tactical problems, using live ammunition ~~in fl~~ and flame throwers. Et first the exercises were on a smaller scale - battalion and regimental teams, but before long entire divisions were involved. And General Hodges had his finger on the pulse. He observed everything the way supplies were brought ashore, the way communications worked, difficulties that arose from natural casues. Standing on the bridge of an LCT he would discuss air support and naval bombardment with the naval and airforce officers. Or,walking up and down the beach, he would ask regimental commanders where their troops were, what they were doing a nd whther they had the supplies and support they were supposed to hav . In everything he did he was quiet and unobtrusive, but he never

missed a trick. After the exercise he called in the various individuals - division or regimental commanders - and talked it over with them. Several changes in invasion tactics emerged from Hodges' inspections -- but the most important, and most difficult changes he made were in commands. Frequently he came back to London and went down to quaint old Bryanston Square, where Bradley had his headqaurters. "Brad," he would say in his quiet, deep voice, so and so just can't command that outfit in combat." And he would give his reasons - lack of experience or imagination, or just insufficient background or ability. Bradley always agreed.

He took no pleasure in using his authority in that way. It was something that had to be done. He would say, "We could carry old so and so in the peacetime army, but we're not privileged to do it now. Too many lives are at stake." There was nothing offhand in his decisions about people, either in removing them or appointing new commanders. His wide personal knowledge of the men under his command made it unnecessary for him to hesitate when a vacancy had to be fille
No one ever heard him ponder about getting someone to fill a job.

On D Day and after Courtney Hodges remained Gen-

eral Bradley's right hand. Bradley was on the cruiser Augusta and Hodges on the command ship Achener. Both had complete headquarters and communications facilities in case either should be sunk. When Bradley went ashore Hodges stayed aboard and vice versa. And when he went ashore he made recommendations and gave orders for the smoother working of the operation.

In the eight weeks from D Day until August 1st, when he took full command of the First Army, Hodges was Bradley's other slef. He participated in the planning and execution of all our major moves, from Cherbourg to"Operation Cobra", the breakthrough at St. Lo. While General Patton swept down into Brittany, Hodges' First Army cut sharp left past Mortain to Argentan and fought the battles of the Falaise pocket. He had to meet his first emergency when the enemy mobilized all the armor he had left at Mortain and tried to break through to Avranches, and cut most of the First and Third Armies off. Hodges marshalled his army coldly and calmly to meet the situatio There was no tearing of hair, no sudden orders and countermands. The General sat down in front of his map, had his staff review the situati for him in terms of their own special fields and then decided to turn his entire army 90 degrees. This is a most difficult operation in the

best of circumstances. In the heat of battle it was something spectacular. Hodges just sat there quietly and said, "Let's follow the flow of the battle." There was no confusion and no hastiness that would have upset the troops - the divisions just wheeled in line abreast like welltrained horses.

South of the Seine Hodges put his army through more intricate paces - and with equal success. There he leapfrogged Army Corps until they hardly knew from one day to the next where they were. But everything ran smoothly. One of his staff explained it by saying, "The General thinks gracefully. His ideas flow into one another and upset nothing that isn't worth upsetting." Which is about the size of it.

Between the Seine and Germany Hodges had to make three quick decisions of farreaching strategic importance. He took them all in his stride. His first problem was Paris. The French capital was scheduled to fall on August 23rd, after the Maquis inside agreed with the German commander about evacuating the city. The French Second Armored division, slated to enter the town was delayed between Chartres and Paris. The Germans repudiated the armistice and evacuation agreement. Hodges swiftly ordered the

Fourth Infantry Division to change its route of march, wheel and secure the city. Immediately after Paris the gasoline shortage set in. Our rapidly advancing armies were burning incredible quantities of fuel, and the unloading at the beaches and the building of the pipeline had not progressed to the point where requirements could be met. Gasoline had to be gotten from somewhere or else the pursuit of the routed Germans abandoned. Hodges consulted his staff - his G's and his artillery officer. His decision was to immobilize most of his Field Artillery, take ~~their~~ motor transport and two or three hundred trucks of the second French Armored division and send them back to the beaches to bring up gas. This cut down its immediate fire power, but enabled the First Army to chase the Germans through northeen France and destroy another enemy army corps in a pocket near Mons -- an army corps that had been detailed to retreat and man the empty Siegfried Line.

The third major decision came when we got to the Siegfried Line and made the initial punctures. The Army had come hundreds of miles on a dead run, and like an exhausted racer had just stumbled over the Siegfried Line. Hodges had to decide whether to push on nevertheless, though his shoestring was frayed to one strand, or to sit tight and build up. There is no telling what the history book will make of this choice; but from the point of view of the men on the ground it was wise. It was remarkable that the First Army ever came as

fast and far as it did. I saw tanks that had only odd patches left of their rubber treads, whose engines kept going only from force of habit. I saw infantry exhilarated but exhausted, hardly knowing if it were asleep or awake. Gas tanks were perpetually half or quarter full, and ammunition had reached the point where you could speak of it as precious. Forests full of Germans were gaily bypassed - the armored divisions thought of changing their signs to read "Jerries cleared to hedges" instead of mines cleared to hedges.

The greatest decision of all - to do what has never been done successfully before and fight a largescale campaign in Western Europe in winter - was made on a higher level, but on the basis of recommendations made by Hodges.

In everything the First Army Commander does his staff is at his elbow. He leans on it, he listens to it, he sometimes disagrees with it and orders it, for good and sufficient reason, to alter its decisions. The staff is both creative and expansive - it gets its own ideas and originates recommendations in addition to doing the routine work to carry out one of the commander's orders. A good staff reflects the personality of the man it works for. This is a good staff. Although Hodges inherited it from Bradley he made none of the changes that often go with a shift in command, so in effect it is

his./para ~~The way he works with it characterizes Hodges relationship with it.~~ Hodges pushes his staff - 15, 16 hour day is nothing uncommon. He himself puts in 12, 14 hrs day. Every day's business must completed that day. He starts at, for the Army, a fairly late hour - about nine or ninethirty with a staff conference. His war room is a long trailer, about thirty feet long and ~~six~~ ~~eight~~ seven feet wide, and he uses it even though it may be parked next to a chateau. In the ceiling are three small plexiglass domes. and along the two windowless side walls are the maps, with their shiny acetate overlays and their innumerable markings in red and black grease pencil -- our forces, the enemy's; the corps and army and division boundaries, the most important rear installations. There are largescale maps of a particular area and small scale that cover the entire western battlefront./Like all working military maps there are no arrows on it. Brilliant lights play on both walls, and in between, facing either one of them, are three club chairs with orange slipcovers.

Every morning Hodges climbs the steps to this trailer [illegible] with his principle assistants. Major General Elwood Quesada, who heads the Ninth Tactical Air Comand and is responsible for giving the First Army close air support. Major General William Keans, the Army Chief of Staff, and as such a combination soothsayer and business manager, is there. So tall, deliberate Brig. Gen. X X THORSON, the G 3, Brig. General Chas. E. Hart, the handsome, graythatched artillery officer and the sharp G-2, the intelligence officer - Col. X X DIXON.

Hodges sits down and pulls a black cigarette holder out of his left breast pocket, a crumpled pack of cigarettes out of his right and starts to smoke. From then until he goes to bed he will hardly stop. ~~This is~~ The conference begins with dynamic little Quesada explaining, with gestures, what his fighters and divebombers have done for the Army the preceding twentyfour hours. He will bounce from one part of the map to another, explaining strikes and possible ~~targ~~ targets for that day. Every once in a while Hodges will drawl a question - "Pete," he will say, ~~he will say~~, "the weather for this afternoon looks pretty bad, do you think your boys'll be able to take that in too?" And he will point to an area on the map where German troops have been reported assembling.

ThenGeneral Thorson will go over the tactical operations of the previous day and make his recommendations for the day. The others do the same. Hodges do drawl a question or an observation interrupts only occasionally/- "Pete," he will say to Quesada, "the weather looks pretty bad for/this afternoon, do you think your boys can take that target over there too?" Or he will ask Dixon, "Monk, what's become of the 243 Panzer Grenadiers that moved in up there last week?"

When the briefing is over General Hodges stays behind in

After sitting there silently for a while studying the map he will turn the trailer with Keans and Thorson. to his angular G-3 and say, "Tubby, let's brew some medicine. Let's just think out loud." And he'll lean forward and outline where he wants an attack, or where he wants to group more strength behind our line to take care of expected German counterattacks. This is not the last word - Thorson may suggest that a different battalion or regiment be used, or that the timing ofan attack orof a relieving movement be changed. Hodges will listen, as he always does, and then decide that the 3rd Battalion of X Infantry has to be relieved first because it's taken most punishment; but he may agree with Thorson that a night attack might be better at another point than a dawn thrust.

— Supplies with G-4 - equipment with Ordnance Officer then mission demands

Once he has decided his word is law, and the members of the staff go about their business to put it into effect.

The picture hardly ever changes.- Whether it is a routine day or crisis is brewing. Hodges is never nervous, never paces the floor. He smokes continuously in any case. He can make decisions immediately, because he never loses track of events, but he is never rushed into a snap judgment. The only way he can be said to react to crisis - a word which is not quite applicable, because he has never had to meet a really critical situation - is in wanting to be in unbroken contact with the situation.

~~xx~~ his Corps and Division commanders. As messages come in (germconcentrations etcetera) He never shows any emotion. But, though ~~xxxix~~ very calm he is no brooder. After getting all pertinent information and discussing it with his people he will make up his mind promptly.

~~xfixx~~ The morning conference ~~xxxxixk~~ can be and ~~xxxxxixxxx~~ has been repeated any time of day or night. During the Battle of the Falaise pocket, when he was engaged in leapfrogging his Fifth and Nineteenth Army Corps and worrying about supplying ~~x~~ troops for Paris his "midnight staffs" were routine procedure.

(← in office in chateau

After the usual morning conference which generally lasts an hour and a half Hodges sets about ~~xxxxxx~~ the various jobs that fall to an Army commander. There is a good bit ~~xxxxxxxx~~ of administrative detail that comes up for his signature- such as ~~xxxxxxx~~ reviewing the ~~xxxx~~ verdict of general courts martial, higher decorations, correspondence with other allied commanders and foreign officials. This last was not the least of his worries at the time when the First Army sprawled across parts of France, Belgium, Luxemburg and Hollandx . He does not like administrative detail and often ~~xxixxxxix~~ putsit off to turn his attention to tactical matters. Before lunch he may ~~xxx~~ turn his attention to a particular problem - and he will call in the staff officer - one of the G's or special

staff sections and go into the problem in all detail. If the problem is one of supply -- as it has been so frequently after the fall of Paris -- he will discuss how much transport is available and how much is needed, the roads it can move over, the condition of their surface and of bridges along the way. He will think of where drivers can get food and sleep. He knows how much is still being handled on the beaches and how much supply tonnage is moving in through the channel ports.

~~Before Aachen, when it became quite plain that a winter campaign was impending Hodges spent a good bit of time worrying about providing ser~~

~~Hodges pushes his staff, and a 15 or 16 hour day is nothing uncommon for it. He works 12 or 14 hours a day himself~~

He has been accused of ~~driving his~~ not giving his troops proper opportunity for recreation. He automoatically put a town off limits to troops the moment it was taken. The joke went around that he had an agreement with the Germans ~~for them~~ to hang"off limits" signs up when they left the town. He wanted to concentrate all the army's energy on war in order fo force a major victory in the quickest

possible time. When his extended supply lines and the near exhaustion of many of his troops made this impossible he relaxed his policy and started a recreation program.

Lunch is a businesslike meal, and immediately after lunch he ~~either~~ goes out to visit his Corps or Divisions. If the weather is good he flies everywhere he goes. If it is bad you will meet his three star jeep on the road. But ~~if~~ work may keep him at his desk in the afternoon too. Special ~~problems~~ questions - the state of equipment, the work of his Civil Affairs section, personnel, ~~winter uniforms~~ are always coming up. And he never loses sight of the tactical situation - his Corps commanders may come in and they will sit down together in front of the large wall map - and Hodges, in his quiet Georgia drawl, will point here and there on it and discuss with them the tactical picture, the plans and the capabilities - ours and the enemy's.

He goes up to the front to get the flavor of the situation. While he is out the staff machinery at his headquarters is busy carrying out the orders he gave that morning, getting together the information ~~of~~ and statistics he will want when he gets back to

make any necessary decisions. And the intricate staff machinery, with General Keans at its head continues with the hour by hour work - tactical and administrative - of a great headquarters.

The way he works with staff develops initiative--

Serenade, GPF, Gunn G5

Dinner

Uniforms

Personal habits

Love of artillery fire.

CBS Hottelet 1300 23 October 1944

The only fighting on the ~~fig~~ First Army front during the night was done by the German artillery -- we've been expecting counterattacks at several ~~key~~ points, ~~including Hill 231~~, three ~~miles~~ northeast of Aachen, but they haven't materialized. It's been here that some of the fiercest counterattacks of recent weeks have been made - with hurricanes of artillery fire in preparation. If our infantry hadn't held its ground and if our superb air and artillery cooperation hadn't pinned down the attacking forces and cut them to ribbons, the Germans might have won a good anchor position for a barrier line between us and the Roer River. -- ~~Prisoners taken here who've fought on the Russian front have again and again expressed admiration for the close interaction of our various arms - which they say is even more highly developed than in the Soviet Army.~~ -- It's this cooperation that has brought us this far with comparatively few losses -- ~~our First Army losses have been downright light when you consider that General Hodges has already taken over 199,000 prisoners of war and buried more than 15,000 enemy dead.~~ -- And close cooperation will continue to pave the way for our troops. Right now we're on the threshold of the winter campaigning season in Europe. It's been heavy rain - roads are either slippery with mud or axle deep in it. Fields are soggy as sponges. Even if we were only fighting the weather it would be tough going. -- But in addition we've got an enemy who's been mobilizing whatever he can to stave us off -- mobilizing by turning the Gestapo screw and threatening to shoot the families of officers who surrender -- mobilizing civilians by terror propaganda. ~~It really seems, when you talk to German civilians and prisoners of war that the only thing holding Germany together is terror, and a cleverly cultivated fear that defeat means annihilation.~~ --- Right now seems more than ever to be the time to use our own propaganda big guns and beat down the enemy's will to resist. The big guns are here - we have psychological warfare teams working smoothly and efficiently by radio, leaflets and loudspeaker. But they have insufficient ammunition -- they are working in a political vacuum because the higher political directives they get do not give them a policy, and forbid them among other things from reassuring German soldiers and civilians that it they surrender they will be able to help rebuild a better Germany. That is what these psychological warfare people feel would be the best thing to induce surrender -- and if they could r

quisition that from Washington and London the way General Hodges draws artillery ammunition they'd send a message back for it by highest priority.

CBS Hottelet 1400 22 October 1944

You'd probably be quite right if you just described today on the American First Army front as a quiet sunday and let it go at that. It's not that there isn't any fighting going on -- there's always that. This morning one of our infantry outfits began attacking the German half of the town of Wuerselen, to clean out the enemy and get the whole town. Elsewhere along General Hodges' long front other units are right now getting artillery fire; and patrols are creeping back and forth on both sides so that you suddenly hear wild stuttering machine guns in woods and over fields where everything had been completely still. And even in the rear areas you got a reminder this chill and misty ~~[illegible]~~ morning that the war hadn't let up when you heard the rasping and crackling of some German buzzbombs. Heaven knows where they were bound. --- But when you describe a front as quiet you merely mean that nothing so big is happening that it demands all your attention. Now that Aachen is mopped up and you look around the Army area you notice once again how many things are happening behind the front, ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxxxxt~~ As you drive around in your jeep you ~~notice~~ see that the hills, ~~have~~ which have turned a lovely gold and tan and mahogany are beginning to let their leaves ~~fall~~ drop. And it suddenly strikes you that it's only nine days to Halloween; and that the sharp chill in the air this morning was no accident. -- You notice that most of the soldiers have put on woollen overcoats, and most of the ones that work out in the completely soggy fields and meadows have rubber boots on or galoshes. They didn't have them a fortnight ago -- some of the trucks you've seen rolling up the ~~road~~ rainy slippery roads these last weeks

have brought them up. And during the last day or so it strikes you that you've seen an awful lot of engineers out repairing the roads -- smoothing over old bomb craters, digging drainage ditches, strengthening bridges. I've seen them up to their waistsin mud. They've got to keep the arteries from clogging when the next great push shrieks for supply. And even right now the traffic along the roads hasn't slackened -- for one thing this pause in big operation has given General Hodges time to ~~pull~~ give some of his men ~~out of the line~~ ~~for~~ a few days rest. And now and then you're caught in a convoy of dirty, tired men going back; or clean GI's rolling back up again. You don't have to look around long before you see that this present period is ~~the~~ a time of staff work. The men in the various headquarters are looking ahead to the next phase, each within his own scope. Lt. Beasor walker is getting his men washed and fed and rested in a dry place after going through Aachen from one end to the other. Lieutenant Colonel John Williamson is worrying about the ~~three~~ four companies of his battalion -- getting in replacements, ammunition and food to last them through anything that might come up in the next few days. — REGIMENT IS PLANNING FOR AN EXPECTED GERMAN COUNTERATTACK. — And on it goes, up the line, until in Army headquarters you find they've been busy for weeks over maps and sandboxes and statistics of places that aren't yet even within heavy artillery range. --- Already, 24 hours after it fell, Aachen is practically forgotten. The only mention I heard of it today was from one lieutenant who had to take steps to keep sightseers out; and from another officer who deals with prisoners of war. It seems that we had expected the German Colonel Wilck to sur-

render with about 500 men. And so had Colonel Wilck. But ~~then~~ we rounded up, out of cellars and shelters 1100 more German soldiers who had given up the war as a bad deal ~~long ago~~ somewhat sooner, and had just stayed under cover until we came and captured them. Some of these have been hiding out in the town for several months, and had on civilian clothes when they were taken.

You'll remember this period- if you do, as a ~~time of~~ bridging time between two campaigns. It's a time of aftermath, almost anticlimax -- and a time of intensive preparation for the next blow.

CBS Hottelet Admiral 1931 22 October 1944

~~Probably~~ the ~~[illegible]~~ thing that's Probably aroused most general interest on the American First Army front today has been the number of buzzbombs that came over on their way west. ~~They weren't V2 or V3 or anything,~~ new, ~~they were the same old things we'd gotten to know in London. -- What they've done is~~ ~~[illegible]~~ take they've taken our attention for the moment off the actual line of battle and ~~[illegible]~~ focused it on the bigger picture. ~~[illegible] intentions and capabilities~~ // Right now, as far as we're concerned, we're in the quiet period between two operations. But ~~two~~ we're ~~are~~ not playing this game of war alone, and it's good to keep an eye on ~~our~~ the Germans ~~opponent.~~ -- We know that the ~~Germans~~ enemy ~~have~~ has been very busy ~~two~~ also these last six weeks since we first broke the Siegfried Line. He has done his utmost to strengthen his defenses - with forced civilian labor digging ~~[illegible]~~ new gun emplacements and antitank ditches. His engineers have even built some new concrete fortifications between us and the Rhine. More German troops have been brought up - infantry, armor, engineers, artillery. And they've been used - and partly exhausted - in almost daily small counterattacks against our key positions. The idea there was the typical German principle of the aggressive defense. -- The ~~[illegible]~~ basic plan was to gain time, and when several thousand German troops were told to hold Aachen to the last man the enemy started propaganda about the so-called Bridgehead of Aachen; ~~[illegible]~~ while Himmler and the other

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION

Date 22 OCT 1944

NAME .... No. ....

A.E.F.

FIELD PRESS CENSOR

higher commanders sent pep telegrams into the doomed city. But noone said what they wanted to gain time for - except vague promises of new divisions and new weapons, that would appear if Germany held out until winter. -- And a Major of Police, a typical SS man, whom we caught in Aachen has admitted to us that the Gestapo is tightening the screws/on the officer's corps to prolong the agony. ~~He said that the families of all officers~~/~~directly~~ ~~connected with the~~ attempt on Hitler's ~~life on July 20th had been shot,~~ from grandchild to grandparents. that stern reprisals ~~And he said that the same th fate~~ had been threatened against the family of any officer who now surrendered in violation of orders.

~~Whether these efforts will be successful remains to be seen~~. The doodle bugs that came over today are no more effective than they've ever been. The new people's divisions don't look like much. If Hitler wants to keep us from breaking through at least tp the Rhine he'd better produce something really new and much better in a hurry.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
56
Date 22 OCT 1944
NAME .... No.....
S.H.A.E.F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

CBS   Hottelet   1400   21 October 1944

The noise of Battle is receding from Aachen -- only occasional muffled bursts of machinegun fire and mortars remind you that there are still some Germans holding out in the fringes of the city. Inside the town American jeeps are already rushing around, turning corners on the usual two wheels. Main streets are being swept clean of glass and bricks - and you see ~~mmixx~~ soldiers with strange shoulder insignia who've come in ~~txxdx~~ like coroners to look over the sprawling corpse of Aachen.~~xxx~~ They're looking for mines and booby traps -- and strangely enough have found no mines and practically no booby traps. They're looking for food stores and spies/archives and records and ~~xx~~ anything that the city can contribute to help us fight the war. These men give the city back some semblance of life -- and so do the civilians. Not an hour passes that you don't see another big or little group of them come trudging down between the toothless wrecks of houses. They've got what every refugee has anywhere - wide eyed children,llooking back at us over their shoulders as their mothers pull them weatily along; and grandmothers, bent forward under a bundle~~x~~ just l'king at grd /they've got their best clothes on, because they figured they were suré to save what they could carry. And they've got ~~mthmx~~ a few spare shirts and towels and some odds and ends of food with a pot to warm them in. They've got a pillow for the one who gets most tired. -- When the battle for the city itself was still raging you looked at these people without thinking too much, because it's the most natural thing in the wörld for people to move out of a place ~~thxxxxxx~~ where mortar shells come lobbing in over houses and machinegun bullets bounce off the front door. -- But now when you see these refugres -- there are about 4,000 in our hands already with

probably at least as many still to come out of their air raid shelters and cellars... when you see these refugees now it dawns on you that you're looking at a terrific responsibility. In taking Aachen we've taken them. They've got to be housed and fed and kept warm -- I've ~~had~~ heard people say that the enemy didn't deserve any consideration at all. But our Military Government people - men like Colonel Dell B. Hardin of Monmouth Illinois and Lieutenant Colonel Frank McFarlane of Topeka Kansas - take a different view. And noone can accuse these officers, who were successful businessmen in America, of being soft. They say that we have the human obligation to help the helpless -- that Nazi methods wouldn't do our cause any credit. And, they point out on the practical side, the news of how our army treats civilians will march along ahead of our troops, and it may make many bewildered and frightened people realize that they have nothing to gain by opposing us. --- It doesn't take much from us. Much of the food they eat is captured German stock, and the rations we give them of our own are half what an American soldier draws. They sleep on straw and have one blanket, because there aren't any more. --- We tolrate no nonsense - we screen them all for spies or Nazi agents, and we punish misdemeanors firmly and justly. -- It's the justice of the treatment their getting that's impressed most of the refugees I've spoken to. And as far as I'm concerned this intelligent, impartial attitude shown by the officers of military government reflects the jobs we came over here to do.

CBS Hottelet 2346 20 October 1944

The city of Aachen is now entirely in our hands and the men at the front aswell as the men in the various staffs - corps and division and army are looking ahead to the next phase. That's not altogether right because the staffs have been looking ahead for some time -- assembling information, replenishing supplies, bringing up replacements for our casualties. What the fall of Aachen means is that - as soon as the final mopping up is completed - all our men and all our guns will be facing the same way once again. That puts an end once and for all to Hitler's attempt to push us off the doorstep of his Greater German Reich. And it gives us a bit more freedom of action than we've had during the last couple of weeks. One of the thingswe'll be able to devote our undivided attention to now is the peculiar German strategy east of Aachen. -- For a couple of weeks now they have been counterattacking -- plastering our positions with artillery fire, moving in infantry and following up with tanks. Behind these counterattacks has been the COMBINED POTENTIAL strength of several German divisions and more than a hundred German tanks, brought up for that purpose. But this whole weight has never been thrown in -- it's always come in small driblets -- a company or battalion of infantry with a handful of tanks in support. And usually it's been cut to pieces by the massed weight of our artillery before it ever endangered our positions. -- And more often than not it's been tactically downright poor. Yesterday afternoon, for instance, the enemy began to lay a smoke screen in front of one part of our line east of Aachen. He laid it well and then started the attack. As his infantry came over the field it was cut to pieces -- because Jerry had apparently forgotten that the whole operation was taking place in full view of observers sitting in another part of our lines who called murderous fire down on it.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
20 OCT 1914
NAME.......... No..........
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

14689

CBS Hottelet 2346 18 October 1944

It's midnight ~~xxx~~ here now and out along our front it's a black one - because there's no moon. The only light will be the flash of shellbursts, WEIRD FLARES, the glow of a cigarette in a covered spot; and down in cellars and in holes under logs there'll be a kerosene lamp or a candle. Even inside Aachen, where the light of burning buildings bounced off the low clouds~~x~~ last night it ~~xxxx~~ won't be bright tonight. Heavy rain today has soaked through most of what will burn -- and left the city ~~xxxixxx~~ with the smell of wet ashes and brick dust. There right now ~~xxx~~ soldiers are curled up on dusty, torn sofas -- or on crumpled beds in rooms that have somehow remained dry. And others are standing guard on street~~x~~corners and in staring empty windows - because the enemy might creep up with men and even tanks. ---- The more you go into Aachen the stranger AND TENSER that sort of warfare seems -- ~~it's not only that the enemy is axing lobbing mortars into the next street, and that the destruction seems more complete even xxxxxxx as we push deeper into the city~~ -- it~~xx~~ just seems obscene that you should be standing on -the corner of Maple and Main street, let's say - and one of ~~xxxxxxx tank~~ six or eight tanks the enemy has cruising around suddenly appears down at the foot of Maple and ~~draps~~ pitches a shell in and a building collapses on one of your men. ~~xxx~~ I got a funny feeling this afternoon when I went around an ordinary corner with Lieutenant Beasor Walker of Tuscaloosa Alabama and there, standing in a doorway with a white handkerchief tied to the handle of a broom was a German sergeant. If he had been standing there with a burp gun instead you wouldn't be hearing this broadcast. ~~There were three more in the cellar - one badly wounded. We gave him a morphine injection to stop his moaning and went on down to~~

18 OCT 1944
AEF 18 OCT 1944

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
C1
Date 18 OCT 1944
NAME ....

Down on the next block ~~there~~ one of Beasor's tanks had been firing at a machinegun position. ~~All morning long it had been impossible to get~~ around that corner - a sniper in a church steeple fired down, and the machinegunner swept the street. ~~We got the~~ sniper first, and when I arrived the machinegun was quiet, so we stumbled over bricks and plaster to ~~look the place over.~~ We had hit him squarely - and thrown a whole wall in his face and the gunner ~~he~~ lay there, caked with dust like a ~~statue~~ big rag doll on a rubbish heap. As we stood there a figure suddenly came up the cellar stairs -- it was a German lieutenant who wanted to surrender his seven men. He had been led into his position the night before, didn't know where he was or what he was supposed to do. He was completely cut off -- and like the captain who surrendered his whole company this morning, this officer figured that suicide wasn't honorable, it was just stupid. As we cut the Aachen pocket smaller and smaller more German troops may come to the same conclusion.

VIA PREWE

PRESS EDWARD MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

Please tell xx Annie eye thinking her omniminute stop regards

Richard Hottelet

CBS Hottelet 1400 17 October 1944

There's still plenty of fighting on the First Army front this morning - especially INSIDE ~~in~~ Aachen and to the east. Now that the gap is closed, the enemy's plan to relieve the city has failed; ~~and~~ his next move now is to continue moving in more infantry and armor to keep the pressure up against us, and feverishly dig more field fortifications. Not a day goes by that we don't hear of ~~more~~ German reinforcements ~~moving in northeast of Eschweiler~~ -- and not a day has gone by that the enemy hasn't shown his strength by shelling and attacking the key town of Verlautenheide. It's vicious fighting, and the enemy is helped by poor visibility -- he can creep up without being observed. Even so our artillery has managed to come down on the attacking battalions like a flyswatter, and bleed them white -- the same thing happened again this morning/ Even with this help from our guns ~~but~~ the battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Williamson of Flushing, Long Island has had to do some pretty hard fighting and stand the/ German mortar and artillery fire that comes in on them all day every day. -- Inside the city of Aachen the Germans are also fighting hard. I went up this morning/ again to see Lieutenant Beasor B. Walker of Tuscaloosa Alabama; and his company has had a very tough night. The Germans have gotten ammunition dropped to them by air, and a couple of trucks also managed to squeeze through our encircl~~ingxrinx~~ ing troops. ~~and~~ Late yesterday Beasor's men began to get heavy fire - machineguns ~~supported/by~~ ~~day~~ antitank guns ~~and~~ mortars and rifle grenades, SUPPORTING ATTACKING INFANTRY. And a German tank poked its snout around a corner several times ~~and~~ to hit them some more. It was still there this morning, just on the other side of the block .

This is the heaviest fighting Beasor's Company G has had in Aachen --

Date
No.
A.E.F.
PRESS CENSOR

CBS Hottelet 1300

Our soldiers are fighting hard in a driving storm to finish the battle for Aachen -- I' don't think I've seen ch rain since I cameto the First Army six weeks ago --and it's making the going just so much tougher. Still and all, our troops were inching their way along -- sometimes hardly able to see with the rain beating into their faces. -- The last word I have from the front is that we now have xkmxxk about half the town area. From now on in it's just a question of precise and careful fighting -- the sort of work our men are doing around street corners and through the gaping walls of smashed houses - flushing the enemy out of his hiding places. --- ~~We're reported to have the~~ Aachen cathedral -- the great church xkxxx that holds the throne of Charlemagne -- for whom Aachen was the capital of his great western empire. The cathedral is ~~said~~ to behardly damaged -- to have only one shell hole through the roof. -- But the Germans are still lobbing their big 120 milimeter mortars around the town -- so we can't be sure xxntxxkxxx until the town is completely taken and in our hands that the damage will remain so slight. --- ~~are reported to~~ ~~We xxtxonlyxhavexthe~~ ~~Cathedral but~~ we certainly have the Catholic Bishop f Aachen./Bishop Vanderwerde He came into our lines last night as a civilian refugee -- xx with three of his priests out of a great air raid shelter where they had taken cover. He is a big, strapping man of about fiftyfive. The story goes that he asked the commandant of Aachen to accept the American ultimatum; but he xxxx is keeping himself very much in the background at the moment to avoid reprisals against any catholic clergy in Nazis hands. -- He did say, xxx that the defense of the city was hopeless and he expressed great concern about the condition of the civilian population. He was very grateful for the work our soldiers and our military government authorities have done in collecting and feeding the refugees. While he is in our hands we are treating Bishop Vanderwerd with all thecourtesy that he would receive if he were an officer of the rank of general.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION AS CENSORED
51
Date 19 OCT 44
NAME.......
No.......
A.E.F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

and certainly the first actual counterattack they have had inside the city. --- The whole situation boils down to the fact that the Germans are most anxious to delay us -- delay us wherever and whenever they can. Xkx And they'hre fighting to do it. The only exception was right inside the former gap this morning, where German pillboxes wilted under the direct fire of our heavy artillery and began to blossom with white flags. --- And the xnxk chances are that much the same will happen anywhere else where we can hit them hard enough.

Date
190

CBS HOTTELET 2246 16 October 1944

If you want to get an idea of the kind of war your men in the First American Army have been fighting today you can make a feeble start by going out now and lying in a puddle. It doesn't matter if it's in the woods or out in the open or on the first floor of a house without any roof on it. The only thing missing out of the Arm'y repertoire here is desert warfare. The essential missing ingredient in your make believe would be the enemy -- which is why I call it a feeble start. Because Jerry is being even more vicious than usual. Down to the south of Aachen we're fighting him in the Huertgen Forest - it's almost jungle fighting, with man creeping up on man through thick trees. The bursts of machinegun fire sound like a million woodpeckers suddenly gone crazy, and artillery shells timed to explode in the air send not only STEEL fragments, but thick branches whistling around your ears. East of Aachen you'd be out in the open, with Jerry attacking you all the time -- first with wild artillery fire, then with infiltrating infantry and then with tanks; and when your own shellfire cut him up you'd know it wouldn't be long before you'd be defending your puddle once again. Up tp the north of that ~~you'd be~~ YOU'D HAVE BEEN attacking TO CLOSE THE GAP - that is ~~moving~~ DODGING SHELLS from one puddle to another; or you might be dry if you were in a tank, but your tank ~~might~~ would most likely be having a tough time in the mud its treads keep mashing. Inside the city of Aachen you wouldn't

FIELD PRESS CENSOR
A.E.F.
OCT 1918

have mud - but you'd have German counterattacks too. The enemy antitank guns and selfpropelled guns we met today for the first time would keep you hugging doorways even if the snipers didn't. If you wanted your war to move a bit faster you could go to some other parts of the Army front where fast combat patrols of ours go out wild west fashion and shoot up enemy towns for an hour or two before withdrawing. --- You could have any kind of war you wanted, but it wouldn't be fun; because you'd never stop wondering when you'd be dry again, and with the way the leave system is working you wouldn't be looking forward to much except the next counterattack.

SSED FOR PUBLICATION AS G
53
16 OCT 1944

CBS Hottelet 1400 15 October 1944

Our men are still fighting ~~inx~~ the streets of Aachen this morning -- fighting may not be exactly the right word because they're not meeting much opposition. But it's a slow and wearing job-every house every room has to be searched -- and you can never tell when you'll open a door and walk into a machine gun; and you can't see on first glance whether mines and booby traps have been hooked up. Sewers have to be searched - and cellars. The cellars are very difficult, ~~too~~, because the people were ordered to knock holes into the ~~cellar~~ walls as an air raid precaution - so they could move from one house to another if a bomb hit. ~~Xxx~~ There's no telling how much fighting we'll still have to do in the city -- the general opinion is it'll take another few

THE GERMANS SUPPLIES ARE WAY DOWN LOW, ~~AND THEY START~~ IN THE SURROUNDED CITY — AND ATTEMPTS

days to get it all cleaned out. Even if they're not fighting very well

WERE MADE LAST NIGHT TO DROP SOME BY AIR.

~~the defenders are~~ a cocky bunch. Last night a company commanded by Lieutenant Beasor B. Walker of Tuscaloosa Alabama started to clean out a huge air raid shelter. After ~~mxx~~ hitting it a couple of times with high explosive shells ~~thxy~~ they brought a flame thrower up to the entrance and ordered anyone inside to surrender. All of a sudden a ~~xxxkyx~~ young captain came strutting out with boots polished, and perfectly tailored uniform and - with a cigarette dangling from his mouth asked Lieutenant Walker to discuss surrender terms. Among other things he wanted his orderly to pack all his baggage and take it away with him. ~~Thx~~ Lieutenant Walker wasted no time he told the captain a couple of things about military courtesy and bundled him off in a truck -- the captain howling all the time at having to stand in a truck with orinary soldiers.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION

6

Date 15 OCT 1944

No.

FIELD PRESS CENSOR

Street fighting has a few compensations, though. Lieutenant Walkers men had a hot meal last night when a German field kitchen turned the wrong corner and brought THEM the soup. When I left them about an hour ago they were still hoping another one would bring them a hot lunch.

PRESS MESSAGE FORM

CALL	CIRCUIT No.	PRIORITY	TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

SPACE WITHIN HEAVY LINES FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

FROM (A)

DATE-TIME OR ORIGIN

TO **PRESREL LONDON**

MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS	GR

SPACE BELOW FOR CORRESPONDENT'S USE.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
19
Date 15 OCT 1944
NAME .... No. ....
A.E.F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

FOR MESSAGE CENTER USE ONLY.

THI or TOR	OPERATOR	TIME CLEARED

CBS Hottelet 2346 14 October 1944

The American First Army front has hardly changed today -- everywhere there's been local fighting against determined German resistance. In one or two places south of Aachen the enemy even counterattacked. But the big counterattack- the one the Germans have been concentrating tanks and infantry around Weiden and Wuerselen for - hasn't come off. The pasting those forces got from our dive bombers and rocketfighters has ~~done them no good.~~ HURT THEM BADLY. -- But ~~there's no break in the German front.~~ THE GERMAN FRONT IS HOLDING. The thousand yard gap east of Aachen ~~has not been narrowed down today~~ REMAINS. And inside Aachen itself our men are fighting their way forward ~~house by house.~~ STREET BY STREET. --- I spent most of the afternoon with an infantry spearhead commanded by Lieutenant Bensor B Walker of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It was a completely new kind of war for his men - they'd never fought along city streets before. It is hard, after fighting in the open suddenly to adjust yourself to having every house and every streetcorner a possible enemy strongpoint. And I thought that the Germans - who've learned the bitterest lessons of street fighting in Stalingrad and Warsaw might have some dangerous tricks up there sleeve. But everything is going well -- ~~our infantry goes~~ WITH MACHINEGUNS AND HANDGRENADES ECHOING IN THE DESOLATE STREETS I WATCHED OUR INFANTRY GO LIKE ~~VETERAN~~ OLD STREET FIGHTERS from house to house and from room to room. Sometimes the Germans show fight, and it takes handgrenades and machine guns to root them out --- or a sniper on a top floor can't be located, so our men just burn the house down. But mainly the enemy has not seemed too determined to fight. Lieutenant Walker said his men have dug enemy groups out of cellars who didn't want to surrender, but also didn't fight --- you figure that one out. ‖ Our losses in Aachen today were not heavy, and we've got

a good bit of the eastern part of town.

I had a chance to talk to some hungry and terrified civilians, who were creeping out of cellars and shelters in the area we had taken. ~~They were all badly shaken~~ One woman's child had been killed three days ago, and she had not been able to bury it. All of them cursed the commandant of the city for not surrendering and praised the American ultimatum as a civilized gesture to avoid useless suffering. Pointing to the broken heaps of brick that remain of their ~~homes~~ city they said it was crazy to continue the war. I think it's important that all the German refugees I've seen from ruined towns have blamed - not us, but Hitler and the German Army -- for their misery. It's up to us now to see that this lesson sticks.

PUBLICATION
BY
14 OCT 1944
A.E.F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

Hottelet 1400 13 October 1944

There's a storm brewing up on the First Army front northeast of Aachen. The Germans have been concentrating infantry and tanks up there for the last three days -- and they've been determined to get them in there, too. I was up in ~~an~~ a forward observation post in Verlautenheide yesterday afternoon and the artillery observer there described how he had seen a column of halftracks and infantry and even some Panther tanks roll across a road and field in full view. He called artillery down on them and beat them up all the way across. -- But that was only a fraction of the strength the Germans have assembled around the villages of Weiden, Vorweiden and Rohe. We ~~now~~ know that STRONG REINFORCEMENTS ~~elements or remnants of three divisions~~ have been moved in with somewhere around a hundred tanks and ~~xxxx~~ also selfpropelled guns. --- Their mission is obviously offensive. ~~Theyxxxthey~~ We expect they'll try to ~~hit~~ widen the gap that still exists between our points and then try to fight their way through to hold Aachen. After counterattacking repeatedly yesterday the enemy gave us a quiet night all along the front -- and that makes it look even more as if he were saving as much of his strength as he can and trying to land one haymaker. If this Sunday punch could connect the Germans would try to reestablish their ~~pos~~ Siegfried Line positions --- but there's no one here who thinks for a minute that any such attack would have more than limited and temporary success. Right now fighter bombers and rocketcarrying fighters are pounding his concentrations AND THIS MORNING OUR TROOPS ARE FIGHTING AGAIN TO CLOSE THE ~~-- this is a change in plan insofar as they were intended to bomb Aachen into submission. But our current operational plan has not been altered. This morning the troops that have been pushing down into Wuerselen jumped off again and are now fighting again to close the~~ 2000 yard gap before Jerry can interfere.

Out

As far as the city of Aachen goes, its commander is still determined to hold out, no matter how many lives he has to sacrifice. I spoke this morning to the lieutenant who received our ultimatum three days ago. He's

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION AS CENSORED
51
Date 13 OCT 44
NAME ... No. ...
A.E.F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

a prisoner of war now. He described how he had transmitted the ultimatum to the lieutenant colonel commanding the city and had been told flatly that there was no question of surrender. He was told that any more emissaries from us were to be turned back at the front line. The reason given was that Hitler had ordered defense to the very last man. And apparently woman and child.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION AS CENSORED
51
Date: 13 OCT 1944
.....No........
A.E.F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

13 October 44

1400

CBS Hottelet 2346 12 October 1944

It looks tonight as if the Germans were more than ever determined to ~~stand~~ hold where they are and at least make an attempt to fight us to a standstill. It even looks as if thy're still ~~out~~ willing to spend human lives and precious material to delay the fall of Aachen. -- Both are tied in pretty well together, and there's no denying that the Germans have a certain amount of success to show for their efforts. Tonight Aachen is not yet in our hands. Some First Army infantry occupied one of the factory districts on its eastern outskirts; but the Germans still hold the city itself. And out, behind ~~the city~~ IT to the east, the encircling arms that have been pushing together for the last four days have been ~~fought to a standstill~~ stopped. The gap this even- is about as wide -- 2,000 yards --- as it was yesterday. ~~The reason is mainly that the~~ The Germans have used what artillery and troops they had in sharp counterattacks against our points east of Aachen, and also farther south. They've shelled our forward positions heavily and ~~brought up more troops.~~ USED THE PRECIOUS LUFTWAFFE TO BOMB THEM. -- We haven't quite decided yet what their idea is - whether it's to get reinforcements into the city, or to hack the main escape roads open again and help the garrison ~~escape~~ GET OUT. Whatever it is the enemy has brought up a fresh division with plenty of tanks to do it. And he's certainly causing us trouble. -- This morning our bombs and shells crashed into Aachen to continue softening it up; but this afternoon our air had to be taken off the target and concentrated on a German assembly area in Vorweiden, to the northeast, WHERE ANOTHER ATTACK SEEMED TO BE BREWING. ~~I watched the divebombing from Lieutenant Colonel John Williamson's forward observation post and it was as concentrated and effective a job as I've ever~~

[illegible]
12 OCT [illegible]
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

the terrific bombing

page two CBS Hottelet 2346 12 October 1944

As I stood and watched ~~it~~, it seemed

~~seem~~, ~~it~~ to me ~~it~~ TO epitomized the present situation -- the enemy

IN THE FACE OF

standing doggedly to slug it out, ~~and~~ our superior strength. ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

up front

A lot of the GI's for whom war is a very personal business are getting downright angry with the Germans for not seeing

AND GIVING UP.

when they're licked. ~~And I've been asking around to find out why~~

German

~~militarily and physically lowgrade troops are putting up such a good~~

the average German is tougher than we thought; but the main reason is that

~~show~~. I think there are two reasons -- for one thing we ourselves haven't yet turned on anything like our full strength to beat them down.

~~and for another~~

General Electric

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
Date 12 OCT 1944
E. F.
D PRESS CENSOR

12 October 1944

VIA PREWI

PRESS JALEX MORRIS COLLIERS NEWYORK

Received yours marks messages stop think can do stop dont know how much releasable new weapons tactics but will include stop assume you want about 1500 words ~~best regards~~ best regards

dick hottelet

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

PRESS MARK HANNA 654 MADISON AVENUE NEWYORK

your message delivered promptly but joes addenda unreceived please repeat cheers

richard hottelet

CBS Hottelet 1400 11 October 1944

The city of Aachen has not surrendered. The German commander of the city has rejected our ultimatum to turn ~~the city~~ IT over by ~~igx nozinzzzt~~ allowing the twentyfour hour time limit to expire without sending an answer. I ent to a forward observation post/at ten minutes to eleven this morning to watch for any sign of surrender -- there was none. But our shelling of the city did not begin immediately on expiration of the time limit ~~[illegible] then I left the front just an hour ago.~~ As we stood on the hill looking down into Aachen and as the zero hour for surrender approached our artillery began to zero in specific targets with smoke shells, and a few ~~fighterxbombers~~ lightnings dropped some bombs to show the German commander we were playing for keeps. Down to our right some/of our psychological warfare loudspeakers mounted on half tracks were bellowing over into the German lines urging eryone within earshot not to throw away his life in so completely useless a fashion. The leaflets that were shot into thecity during the last twentyfour hours have ~~xxxx~~ had some effect. About a hundred fifty German soldiers ~~have~~ deserted to our lines during the night, bringing leaflets with them; and agreeing with us that resistance was just slaughter. A good number of civilians also came into our lines during the night to avoid the bombing and shelling, and the German front line posts let them through. --- ~~Unless something completely unexpected has developed, the systematic shelling and bombing of Aachen should be starting now and~~ RIGHT NOW DIVE BOMBERS ARE HITTING AACHEN AND MORE LEAFLETS ARE BEING SHOT IN — ALMOST AS IF TO GIVE INDIVIDUALS A LAST CHANCE TO GET OUT. AT THE WORD OF COMMAND ~~THE~~ HUNDREDS OF GUNS WILL JOIN IN FOR THE FINAL WORD. There's more at stake than just a city. It will be an object lesson to other cities that we approach on our way through Germany - and an example to the people of all ~~Germany~~ GERMANY.

We have ~~[illegible]~~ waiting outside Aachen right now to go into the city and start immediately the work of gearing its road network into our front. The city is mined and booby trapped - but clearing it is only a technical matter.

There's no telling why the German commander has refused surrender.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
ON
11 OCT 1944
FIELD P[illegible]

CBS Hottelet 1400 11 October 1944

according to latest word there are no SS troops in the city. It's probably just discipline -- the same ingrained discipline that's still fighting hard and still keeping our spearheads from pushing together to the east of Aachen.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATIO
61
Date 11 OCT 1944
NAME NO.
A. E. F.
FIELD PRESS CENSO

PRESS WIRELESS INC.

PY 6 Newyork 25 paid via prewi 9 541pm

press Richard Hottelet CBS war correspondent first american army --

Morris still interested he cabled addenda via prews wirelss october fourth did you receive

mark hanna

1106pm

PRESS WIRELESS INC.

PY 4 London 60 via prewiny 9 1830 press richard hottelet press section us first army --

okay you write magazine stuff etfile direct so longs it uninterf_eres your schedule etproviding magazine gives cbs credit para eye probably pariswarding briefly next week where we might rendezvous discuss plans future coverage para ann excellent says completely uninterested your return stop regards you and calmer

edward murrow

940pm

CBS Hottelet 2346 10 October 1944

General Hodges has ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ given the Germans ~~xxxxxx~~ twentyfour hours to surrender Aachen. ~~This afternoon, xxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxeleven, two American lieutenants~~ ~~carrying a white flag~~ ~~and a private first class walked~~ ~~at ten minutes to eleven handed~~ ~~out of our lines into the city and brought an ultimatum to the German~~ ~~commander's adjutant.~~ ~~xxx commandxpaxxx~~ was delivered by 2 American lieutenants at 10 to 11 & The ultimatum gives the military and any civilian authorities in Aachen a flat choice between unconditional, but honorable, surrender and complete annihilation. It tells them that Aachen is completely surrounded, and that enough bombers and artillery have been concentrated around ~~the city~~ IT to blow it to pieces if the commander chooses to fight. -- And General Hodges was not taking the chance that the German commander might conceal the ~~xxxx xfxxxxx~~ choice he has to make. All afternoon artillery fired scores of thousands of leaflets into the city itself, ~~xxxxxxx~~ telling the remaining civilians to take action to save their city from complete annihilation. -- But this case of Aachen is more important than just one city. It is the first big German city for us. The decision it makes, and the results of that decision, may well set the pattern for other cities in Germany. So this afternoon the Allied Psychological Warfare authorities used powerful Radio Luxemburg to tell all of Germany to watch Aachen as a concrete example of how surrender means preservation and continued resistance - destruction.

So far there's no indication that the German commander - who's NOT an SS man, by the way, will surrender the city. On the contrary, everything seems geared to a last ditch defense. The German garrison even repeats a catchword phrase about fighting to the end,

R PUBLICATION
10 OCT 1944
NO.
E F.
PRESS CENSOR

when it gives the password and countersign.

And this is all in keeping with the bitter fight the Germans are putting up all along our First Army front. Our spearheads closing together behind Aachen are still about two thousand yards apart. Constant small counterattacks all along the line, and vicious artilleryx and mortar fire make it tough going for us; and mist and cold rain all day have added to the misery. The violent reaction we get when we go into places like Hxxxxxxx Haaren which we took this afternoon, and Verlautenheide makes it plain that the Germans are trying to maintain their defensive crust -- it's almost as if they're maintaining pressure because they don't dare relax.

P[illegible] OR PUBLICATION
56
10 OCT 1944
No. 4
A. E. F.
LD PRESS CENSOR

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

PRESS PAUL WHITE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

~~xx~~ 10220 cumfirst army germany stop when eye drove into courtyard command post in shelltorn deserted germtown yestereve eye found it full unistates soldiers stop this strange comma because farther forward you get less likely you are see gee eyes in open air groups stop they also seemed strange because all wore packs gasmask etsome had fixed bayonets stop eye asked one man eye knew who they were stop sadly shaking head he quote they replacements comma bright shiny green replacements unquote para you unseen spirit any army unless you seen replacements go into battle stop because fighting frontliners today are mostly men who replaced original members division or regiment stop some outfits have had hundred percent turnover since first saw action stop etkind war we fighting antigermans today dash war of ~~xhxxt~~ repeated sharp attack counterattack against constant backdrop artillery mortar fire undash costing us sizeable casualties etdemanding steady flow fresh replacement troops para eye talked these men in courtyard stop they examniparts unistates dash ohio newyork alabama oklahoma oregon stop most were drafted only ~~xx~~ about six months ago and arrived France three weeks ago stop eye asked whether they had combat training stop they nodded said theyd had maneuvers cumlive ammunition etquote german village unquote exercise in street fighting stop but as we stood there under gray drizzly evening sky in drab redbrick cobblestoned yard with front only far away as width of central parkthey seemed puff nervously cigarettes stop occasional shells whistled cracked our town stop already steady shellfire along front set sky flickering para experienced soldiers cumcombat infantry badges

marshalled newcomers dash/quote fifteen men for B company come out into road stop no smoking now stop form double line stop no not ~~in~~ middle road comma single file each side road stop dont upbunch now stop okay boys follow guide get moving unquote whereupon new men shuffled off down road para lots them didnt know what they walking into stop eye did etso did veterans dash they walking right into hottest part front in area verlautenheide crucifix hill stop one veteran shaking head quote between jerry counterattacks etconstant fire these boysll either be dead or old soldiers by morning unquote stop looking new men standing little knots talking bit too loudly when machinegun bursts crescendoed etcomparing them calm selfassured combatbadged veterans they certainly seemed need seasoning stop but when command given infall offmarch there unsign hesitation fear para when last group offmarched dark eye inwent command post where spent night stop all night reports came in heavy shellfire stop telephone lines up forward constantly/broken etrepaired ~~repaired~~ stop ~~0230 Germans attacked~~ round midnight began rain heavily stop 0230 Germans attacked etoffbeaten stop 0600 germans again attacked etfailed stop worst possible night pronew men ~~but~~ para smorning eye hitched ride in jeep bringing candy bars ettobacco forward ~~stop~~ etsaw what replacements walked into stop you can offcross verlautenheide exmap stop germartillery made it shambles stop fields ~~[illegible]~~ gardens upchurned stop dead bodies etpieces cow lying streets stop houses demolished stop battalion command post blasted exsecond story first story successively now lodged cellar stop battalion commander lieutcol john williamson exflushing longisland said it one hottest spots he ever been dash ethe

been plenty hotspots stop eye asked him how replacements made out stop he quote extremely well stop they had helluva night stop addition other troubles most them had indig fields etold position pouring rain stop company commanders gave them lectures when arrived last night comma tried tell them about loneliness of battle etconfusion vianight stop but combat is best trainer stop luckily we not lost single replacement stop this morning they old soldiers unquote para artillery mortar fire kept coming in stop looking through hole in wall first floor eye saw some men work way down street cumprofessional ease stop williamson quote there couple new ones there unquote para thats what eye mean when say army only good as its replacements enditem

richard hottelet

VIA PRESS WIRELESS 10 October 1944

PRESS EDWARD MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEWYORK

Delighted see you stop name date stop recommend you first armyward proquick trip para frontline men today asked ~~me~~ whether ~~you~~ could arrange ~~afn repeat afn~~ american forces network give daily local news bulletins from home at dictation speed before 0900 GMT stop frontliners offcut omninews etbattalion clerks presently copy bbc/news bulletin dictation speed etcirculate ~~among troops~~ bbc stop ~~this~~ necessarily devoid unistates hometown news which men crave stop could you ask afn whether possible arrange such terse bulletins regards

richard hottelet

CBS Hottelet 1300 9 October 1944

After a night of artillery fire and counterattack American First Army infantry started moving again this morning. ~~to~~ they've now narrowed ~~They're only apart~~ between two and three miles ~~apart~~ now. ~~Close~~ the gap east of Aachen down to. / I've just come back from the outfit ~~commanded by Col. George A. Smith Jr. of Washington, DC~~ / that's pushing up from the south Those boys have had a hard night. After taking Verlautenheide and Curcifix Hill the men of this regiment settled down under pretty heavy artillery fire. But that wasn't their only problem. In storming forward yesterday morning they had bypassed a number of Siegfried Line pillboxes which kept firing in their rear. There wasn't much time to do that last night - because an attacking spearhead has lots of things to do -- it's got to establish reliable communications with the higher command posts, it's got to get more ammunition up, and get their wounded and prisoners of war back. ~~By the time all this was done it was late, and they had to get ready for the German counterattack they knew would come.~~ At half past three this morning Jerry's artillery opened up. ~~For~~ After half an hour, shelling ~~he shelled our forward positions, and then~~ he attacked, with two companies of engineers and a rifle company. His mission was to restore the breach we had torn in his front there. -- I spoke to a German lieutenant this morning who had led one of the engineer companies -- he and ~~most of~~ his men were prisoners of war. He said he had been promised tanks, but that none had come. He called the operation militarily useless in view of the German shortage of tanks -- but ~~he said that~~ it had been launched because it was absolutely necessary to delay the junction of our forces behind Aachen. Some of the Germans infiltrated back behind our line and got into some pillboxes we had cleaned out. -- All morning ~~Colonel Smith's~~ boys

have been working to clean ~~xhxxx~~ them out again. --- Meanwhile the enemy had been getting ready to launch another counterattack -- and this time he brought up tanks and selfpropelled guns. --The attack had just begun before noon, when I had to come back here to broadcast.

is the
~~xtxx~~ this/sort of tough fighting ~~xhxt~~ we're running up against. It's not on a big scale, and it won't much delay the occupation of Aachen -- but it's costing us men and equipment all the time; and it shows the enemy is certainly still willing to fight.

CBS Hottelet 1931 8 October 1944

The American First Army's trap is tonight closing behind the city of Aachen. North and east of it our infantry is pushing together. The attack began this morning at four oclock when one famous infantry division started pushing northward. In the first hours of the attack they took the town of Verlautenheide against only moderate opposition. A few hours later ~~the another~~ more infantry ~~division~~ started pushing down from Alsdorf to meet them -- brushing aside a German counterattack of tanks and selfpropelled guns. German prisoners of war said that they'd been ordered at all costs to keep the ~~jaws of our nutcracker~~ points of our pincers from closing behind the city ~~-- they said they'd been promised concentrated artillery fire from hundreds of guns and scores of tanks to support them in their counterattack -- of which aonly a few ever showed up.~~ Late this afternoon, when I left the front our two points were only about ~~5,000 yards~~ four miles apart. And crucifix hill is in our hands. This is a thousand foot hill, marked by a white stone cross from which German observation posts had been calling artillery fire down on our positions for the last three weeks. From it we can now bring our own observed shellfire onto the last two roads of escape leading from Aachen.

Inside the city there is no sign of life. There are only comparatively few troops in it. And out of a peacetime population of 160,000 we don't think there are more than about 10,000 hiding in cellars. I've looked into the city from one of our forward observation posts. It's very badly damaged, and its main value to us will be the network of good roads that fan out from it. There's no sign the Germans will make any desperate attempt to hold Aachen. As a matter of fact they may very well try to pull out tonight while they still have a chance, and fall back behind the next natural line of defense, the Roer River - 8 miles to the east. That's back behind the Siegfried Line, but civilian conscripts have been digging antitank ditches behind it and dugouts for tanks.

We expect that our infantry points will meet behind Aachen VERY SOON ~~tomorrow~~ - when they do we'll have a breach in the Siegfried Line 23 miles long -- a jumping off point that will give General Hodges a free hand.

VIA PRESS WIRELESS 8 October 1944

MARK HANNA ~~xx~~ 654 MADISONAVE NEWYORK

Your ~~xakix~~ september twentysix cable just arrived stop view fortnights delay is joe alex still interested Hodges ~~xxxp~~ para probest service route cables via press wireless address first american army belgium ~~xxxp~~ regards

richard hottelet

VIA PREWI
EDWARD MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

Colliers asking for piece on Hodges ~~fxxedzdxxxxxxnex yxrk~~ stop is it okay prome write magazine stuff etfile direct ~~xxxyx~~ regards

richard hottelet

FORM NO. 6B.

WESTERN UNION

(THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY)

(INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, U.S.A., WITH LIMITED LIABILITY.)

CABLEGRAM

ANGLO-AMERICAN TELEGRAPH CO., LD. CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS.

1944 SEP 25 AM 1 03

RECEIVED AT 22 GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.2. (TEL. LONDON WALL 1234.)

BA13VA 470 NEWYORK 45 25

NLT RICHARD HOTTELET
FIRST ARMY PRESS SECTION
AMBIHQ LONDON

JOE ALEX MORRIS COLLIERS INTERESTED ARTICLE GENERAL HODGES HIS EXPLOITS STORY SHOULD BE CRAMMED WITH COLOR AND ANECDOTA STOP IF JOE COLLINS WITH FIRST ARMY INCLUDE ANECDOTA ABOUT HIM COLLIERS DEFRAYS CABLE TOLLS REGARDS

MARK HANNA

Please send your Reply "Via **WESTERN UNION***" You may telephone us for a messenger*

PRESS WIRELESS INC.

PY 58 London 63 6 1735 press richard hottelet cbs care press section first us army -- money despatched beginning this week stop please confirm receipt next weeks schedule stop ann excellent health spirits will keep you advised sorry unable relieve you as planned but will get you back as soons possible para until communications improved ok you query newyork direct re hot recordings or live stuff regards

edward murrow

756pm

PRESS WIRELESS INC.

PY 55 London 28 paid 6 726am --

Press Dick Hottelet Columbia Broadcasting Press Section

First U S Army - -

OK you take 15 minutes tonight 22.30 gmt money despatched stop next weeks schedule following soonest

Edward Murrow

1241pm

py-px 115pm

xq spvr px de spvr newyork

1215gmt cbs reported hottlet signals good stop unable to use him live at 1203-30 due to using report from rome stop his stuff was recorded and probably will be used in another spot rgds.

ag o20p

Press

ad30 zn newyork 29 6th 1030am

o61335 please inform richard hottlet that cbs has changed tonight s schedule and wants him from 2229 to end which will be approximately 2254 stop please confirm regds.to all endit

ag 340p

Dick Hallett

VIA PRESS WIRELESS 7 October 1944

PRESS EDWARD MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM K LONDON

Eye love you stop two hundred pounds arrived stop
schedule arrived ~~stop~~ para fyi postomnitrouble yesternights
2230 outwashed atmospherically para thanks news annie stop she
also writes she progressing admirably stop since no reason worry
etview impending developments feel desirable eye ~~[illegible]~~ remain
first army leastly next few weeks unless you specifically want change
cumpossibility extra spot exhere
~~[illegible]~~ stop please reckon ~~[illegible]~~ tuesday night ~~[illegible]~~ stop will
~~richard hottelet~~
advise when definite

richard hottelet

CBS Hottelet 1400 7 Octover 1944

The American First Army front ~~hasn't changed much~~ has shown no dramatic change during the last twentyfour hours (except maybe ~~that the weather~~ has been -- Cooler = but you can see more and more indications that the Germans are in for trouble. Yesterday an infantry advance began in the woods south of Stolberg -- and this morning another infantry advance began still farther down, in the Gerolstein forest south of Monschau. --- I call them advances and not attacks because of the nature of the action. --- In the Huertgen forest, south of Stolberg, there, the men ~~xxxx~~ are engaged practically in jungle fighting. The trees are thick, and the undrgrowth dense. And the enemy has plenty of ~~xxx~~ chance to hold his positions. -- ~~The fire breaks~~ Paths cleared through the woods to guard against forest fires provide the Germans with convenient lanes that they can sweep with machine gun fire. And I can tell you that artillery tree bursts that send branches and sharp splinters whistling around your ears in addition to the shell fragments are no pleasant things. ---- Much the same sort of thing is going on in the Gerolstein forest -- but the resistance seems not to be as stiff. Still and all, they're not quite up to the Siegfried Line fortifications there, and they're likely to meet with plenty of trouble when they do press up against them.

That's the front south of Aachen. North of Aachen ~~the~~ our troops had a comparatively quiet night. Quiet, that is, as far as ground activity is concerned. But the enemy sent over bombers again, to plaster

CBS Hottelet 1400 7 Octover 1944

The American First Army front ~~has not changed any~~ (except maybe ~~that the weather~~ has been — has shown no dramatic change during the last twenty-four hours -- Bdy = but you can see more and more indications that the Germans are in for trouble. Yesterday an infantry advance began in the woods south of Stolberg -- and this morning another infantry advance began still farther down, in the Gerolstein forest south of Monschau. --- I call them advances and not attacks because of the nature of the action. --- In the Huertgen forest, south of Stolberg there, the men xsxx are engaged practically in jungle fighting. The trees are thick, and the undrgrowth dense. And the enemy has plenty of xsx chance to hold his positions. -- Xhezfixexbrxakex Paths cleared through the woods to guard against forest fires provide the Germans with convenient lanes that they can sweep with machine gun fire. And I can tell you that artillery tree bursts that send branches and sharp splinters whistling around your ears in addition to the shell fragments are no pleasant things. ---- Much the same sort of thing is going on in the Gerolstein forest -- but the resistance seems not to be as stiff. Still and all, they're not quite up to the Siegfried Line fortifications there, and they're likely to meet with plenty of trouble when they do press up against them.

That's the front south of Aachen. North of Aachen xhx our troops had a comparatively quiet night. Quiet, that is, as far as ground activity is concerned. But the enemy sent over bombers again, to plaster

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION

our ground positions with fragmentation bombs. You can always tell what area the enemy is most worried about by the way he commits his most precious material-- tanks, and airplanes -- there. He certainly seems to be xarxixdxxhxxxkx feeling pain up there at that breakthrough.

The First Army Front xx at this time is like the stage of a theater that's getting ready for a performance. General Hodges is the electrician who's giving the lights the last minute check to make sure that the final effect will be right. First he turned the powerful spot on north of Aachen, then, xxxthxx yesterday and today, he turned on a couple more lesser ones south of Aachen. -- He's still got plenty of powerful beams to turn on to that stage-- and when he does you can be sure it's going to be very light and very hot.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
Date 7 OCT 1944
NAME......

CBS Hottelet 2330 6 October 1944

I promised some men in a pillbox near Palenberg that I'd do this broadcast. You know Palenberg - it's up north of Aachen, near Uebach and a couple of other towns where the American First Army has been slugging its way through the Siegfried Line for the last five days. The day I was up there this ~~pxxxxx~~ captured German pillbox was part of the American front line. The men in it had suffered heavily in getting there and were just getting ready ready to move on. I spent only three quarters of an hour with them, and heard their stories~~x~~ and their gripes and their hopes. And I promised them I'd ~~dx~~ tell their story -- which is not only their story but the story of all men on any front facing ~~xx~~ the enemy -- I promised them I'd tell it because they were afraid that people had forgotten who and what they were.

This war has two faces. One has arrows pointing across maps, making neat little patterns. And the words it uses are neat too. It speaks of troops instead of soldiers or boys. And it usually has these anonymous troops lunging forward - or carrying out breakthroughs or pincer movements. ~~Txxy~~ It usually ~~xxxx~~ has the enemy reeling back -- unless, of course, the front is -static - or unless activity is - routine. .... Things are orderly and in place in this kind of war, and anyone who hasn't much time to read can look at a map and see with a glance whether we're winning or losing.

But the other face of war is a very personal thing. All the things you can't see or feel on a map are there. The ground is wet - and when a whistling shell makes you drop suddenly your hands and clothes are smeared with mud. You can't get dry and brush it off, because everything is usually wet. You can get clean by washing - but only seldom; because ~~xxxxx~~ time is scarce and a wash is a luxury, even when you have the chance. Your beard doesn't stop growing and your clothes lose that fresh look after the second night you've slept in them. You've got to sleep in them because you never know when you're going to have to move in a hurry. Not

to mention the cold wind and icy morning mist these days. -- Your fingernails are always black. And your hands are usually cold, because the stock of your rifle or your machine gun or the wheel of your truck is cold.

And in this kind of war contact with the enemy is very personal. An ordinary hill, a house or a clump of trees can mean life or death. Wherever you go up front you hear of -that burp gun off to the right; or - that tank pasting the crossroad from behind the brow of the hill on your left. Even the artillery, that sends its stuff in from behind the infantry gets to take a very personal view of the battle. Take the outfit that was shelling a sector before this new breakthrough ~~operation~~. Theynoticed that Jerry was making use of the lull in bigscale operations to bring up more stuff -- more soldiers and guns and tanks. They noticed, too, that Jerry was using his railroad line to do the carrying. This annoyed the boys in this battery, because the line ran through their territory. And they weren't satisfied with remembering that it's an AWFULLY ~~hard thing~~ wasteful thing to try to hit a railroad line with shellfire when you haven't got good observation. There was only one place where they had an observation post - and the German engineer, when he came in sight of it for a few brief seconds used to hang on to his whistle. It was this that burned the battery up. For them the whistle was a bronx cheer. They tried to get the train, but missed. Because Jerry made it harder by sending ~~the train through~~ IT at odd times, whistling louder every time ~~he~~ IT went through. After a few days the battery's only thought was to get that train - for them it was the war. And finally they hit on a bright idea. They borrowed a selfpropelled gun, and one night they sneaked it up as far as the observation post. Dawn came, and not long after the German train, whistling its way into the open space.

The SP gun opened up and blew that train right up a hill.Then it raced back. The man who told me the story said - it was too bad about that engineer. He had plenty of nerve -- but nobody could do that to us.

4 ok

You hear lots of stories like that. And you hear stories of wounded men sneaking out of hospitals when they're barely recovered and hitchhiking their way back to their outfits. One officer in the First Infantry Division hitch hiked his way back to Belgium all the way from Scotland, because he was afraid the replacement people might not send him back to his ~~outfit~~ company. Recently the men of one infantry unit have started bringing back friends they've made in the hospital, whom they've sold on the idea of signing up with a real fighting outfit.

The book of Army Regulations has no use for that sort of thing - and probably rightly - but war makes it's own regulations. That's one thing the boys in the pillbox wanted me to say -- that for them war is a very personal thing - in which lots of human beings mill around and everything happens to them, inside and outside them that can happen to human beings. They get frightened and they're very brave. They sleep and eat and cry and curse. Messages go astray, wires are cut, people get lost. And a curved line on a staff map is a lot of men and machines covering weary and costly miles, in what looks like complete confusion.

Take the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line north of Aachen. On paper it was a straightforward operation. On the morning of October second 500 bombers were going to saturate the zone of attack. Then infantry was to start from the jumping off point, advance to the little Wurm River, get across a railroad line on the other side and crack the pillboxes. Then engineers were to build bridges over the river and tanks and artillery were to come through to add momentum. On the maps the immediate and later objectives were neatly marked.

The bombers came. But ~~most of them~~ A NUMBER didn't come to the right place. There's no telling why they didn't. Several little things probably went wrong. They mainly dropped their bombs some miles away - a few dropped behind our lines. One infantry colonel saw what was happening, so he quickly had some smoke shells fired into the

target area, and hoped some planes would get the idea. Some bombers did and dropped on the smoke.

Well, the infantry went in without much benefit from the bombing. But our artillery beat at enemy pillboxes and gun positions and concentrations, so the doughs had some support.

At eleven o'clock they went ahead over flat, naked fields toward the Wurm River. That was when the German artillery really opened up on them. From the top of slag piles, from tall trees, from the tops of houses German observers called the fire down. The vicious mortars, that you can't hear until they explode came snapping in with their angry flat bark. There was nowhere to hide, there was no cover. Infantry couldn't dig in because it was attacking. So each man had to decide for himself to go on. They had most of their dead and wounded that day before they ever got to the river. But they ~~got there~~ made it, and waded through the shallow stream and went on up the bank at the pillboxes.

Behind them came the engineers to build bridges for the tanks. Someone got the idea to make a culvert out of trees and telephone poles and some wide pipe. The tankdozers came up to build the approaches. They bogged down in the clayey, gluey mud. -- Artilerry kept coming ing, and mortars and machine guns. Good men died before the culvert idea was given up. --- But other engineers were busy building other bridges, so the tanks DID get across. Even so one of the bridges they built remained impassable under German shell fire.

Meanwhile the infantry crawled on. The boys in my pillbox found themselves canalized in a cutout, and their outfit took heavy losses before it got on. They said it seemed as if the enemy artillery were firing at individual men. When they got to their pillbox objectives soldiers like Alex Kennedy of Florida and Frank Brakefield of West Virginia crawled up on their blind sides and threw hand grenades into the embrasures or went at them with pole charges. The Germans inside didn't fight too hard, - but men died. Outside the pillbox where I met these boys

there were two dead Germans and a dead American still lying there. I asked what had happened. The lieutenant said, "When our man got around to the front of the pillbox a Jerry was there. The GI fired and missed. the Jerry fired and didn't miss. Then we came and got him."

And all the while the artillery came down. The noise was terrific -- and the confusion. Stamping, churning tanks and trucks cut the telephone wires that ran up forward along the sides of the road. Landmarks - trees, houses, wayside crucifixes - disappeared. Runners with messages missed command posts that moved in a hurry. Urgent requests for artillery support were relayed back by three or for walkie talkies. -- And the roads were full and movement slow because the traffic intended for the bridge that the Germans still kept under murderous fire had to be rerouted over the other bridge on the spur of the moment. And those vehicles lost their way because they had studied a different part of the map.

But the moevemtn never faltered. The thousands of individuals involved decided for themselves that if the next man could stick it out they could. They decide that in every battle. -- The medics wnt out, as they always do, to bring men back out of fields of direct fire. The supply sergeants brought up rations and even mail. -- The engineers didn' have the satisfaction of moving away, they stayed where they were and worked. On the first day of the attack I saw a brigadier general go out with a captain to look at a bridge. They got lost too, and when they came back - without having seen the bridge - the captain had one machine-gun bullet hole through his pants. And a buckle on one of his overshoes had been flipped open by another. Progress was slow that first day, and some of the immediate objectives on the map weren't taken. The next day the men got up and started again. German artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire didn't slacken. Visibility was bad and our planes couldn't fly, so the enemy used his chance to bring up more troops and guns.

The following night no one got any sleep. All night long,

-- starting in bright moonlight and then in the blackness until dawn the enemy counterattacked. He didn't have enough to throw us back, but he laid what he had on the line -- more artillery, more mortars, tanks, selfpropelled guns. --- Again the GI was on his own. You've got to have good nerves in night battle -- the ground quivers with the concussion of the guns. Strange colored flares - red, purple, green go up all of a sudden. They all mean trouble. -- You not only HEAR the guns and shellburtts, you see the flashes all around you, and amid the stutter of machine guns the tracer bullets crisscross on all sides. This fury and xxxfxxxxx turmoil in the night is the worst, but you also never know what the enemy is doing and in what strength.

Even the battalion and regimental staffs, only a mile or two back really sweat out the meager and often contradictory reports they get. And that isn't an unusual case -- it's what goes on every time there's an attack. Because every attack, no matter how well planned and timed, is always a stumbling from one unpredictable situation into another --- And it reflects much more credit on the men who keep solving these eternally new problems than if war were just a game of solitaire at which you could cheat.

I thought of that when I went into that pillbox near Palenberg. The air inside was foul. Three German candles gave the only light. Fifteen men were in the small room -- some were draped over wire bunks, snoring -- all had several days beard. Others were coming and going with messages, almost too tired to duck their heads at the low entrance. Lieutenant Quentin Robb of Pittsburgh was answering the telephone that never did stop xxxxxx.ringing. And he never stopped sounding friendly./ -- Outside other men were manning machine gun posts. -- xxxxxxxxxxthexboyszmadexmaxxxxxxxxtoxdaxthisxbxxadxxxxx The boys in the pillbox said they were getting along all right. They had only one worry. They said people didn't understand them any more; [illegible] that their friends back home didn't understand what it meant in terms of sweat and fear and filth when the communique said - "Our spearheads have pushed forward."

I was going to reassure them; but one of the boys came up and shoved a letter in front of my face - the sort of friendly and

thoughtless letter I've seen lots of fellows get over here. He read one breezy paragraph out loud, while the men I'd been talking to grouped around. What's new, said the letter, and where are you? (The red German candles ~~[illegible]~~ sputtered, and I coughed. The air in the pillbox was pretty bad.) Most of all, how are you? ... (Some artillery landed pretty near, and you could hear the roar of our dive bombers.) ..Hope you're well, if you're in the little tussle going on in the vicinity of the Siegfried Line.- said the letter. (The men stirred a little and grunted.)... Mostly, though, I hope all our boys will be able to return to the States for 30 days at least. How do you think you'll like the Pacific Theater after having experienced the European Theater. (There was a moment's silence before the boys in the pillbox began to bellow)

~~[illegible]~~ The reader stopped the noise and went on. The letter said,- we'll tear up the town when you get back, but good. There are some good spots open around here now."

The boy~~s~~ reading the letter folded it up and just shook his head. ~~-Yeah, he said, there are some good new spots open around here now~~ Tell them, he said, will ya -- there are some good new spots open around here too.

This is Richard C. Hottelet withe the American First Army in Belgium, returning you now to CBS in New York.

CBS Hottelet 2346 6 October 1944

~~Thexamericanx~~Fighting on the America, First Army front ~~spread to~~ went on both north + south of Aachen today. And everywhere it's been the same story -- slow progress against determined German opposition.

The main ~~fighting~~ weight of battle was still north of Aachen around the villages of Herbach and Bergendorf. Here the enemy launched a stiff counterattack again this morning to try to contain our break|through the Siegfried Line. At seven thirty this morning a battalion of infantry supported by tanks, and by artillery and mortars launched an attack against the southern flank of ~~the~~ our salient near Herbach. They struck a vicious blow, and recaptured a half mile of ground. Only after hours of heavy fighting were we able to start regaining what we had lost.

This counterattack was the sharp reation we had been waiting for and it really forms a continuation of yesterday's operations. Yesterday, in miserable flying weather that kept our planes mostly on the ground, the Germans sent ~~xxxx~~ 104 fighter bombers over our forward positions, bombing and strafing. ~~xx~~ At the same time they ~~xx~~ launched another attack against our positions in Bergendorf, where our deepest penetration in this sector is four miles into Germany. -- The Luftwaffe suffered painful losses -- claims ran up to 38 shot down and 34 damaged. ~~Thesexclaimsxare~~ which is ~~px~~ probably ~~too~~ a bit high, ~~but~~ But the Bergendorf attack did break into the town, and it took us some effort and some ~~losses~~ casualties to throw the enemy out again. This afternoon we're in ~~there again~~ back once more in force.

The violence of the German countereffort -- the way he's expending his precious planes and tanks is a sure indication that our penetration north of Aachen is causing him great pain. There's no relief in sight for him either, The latest word from that ~~front~~ sector this evening was that we were widening our front in the Siegfried Line, and that troops had pushed to within a thousand yards of Geilenkirchen.

~~south~~ the other side of Aachen too, infantry began to clear the woods ~~in the area of~~ ~~south of~~ South of Stolberg -- an omen to the Germans of more trouble to come.

~~CBS Hottelet 2346 6 October 1944~~

~~Fighting on the American First Army front today spread to south of Aachen. Here xxxxxxx our infantry began an attack with the limited objective of cleaning out the large wood southx xxxxxxx of Stolberg. It's here that~~

58

5 October 1944

PRESS EDWARD MURROW
COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

Unheard from you twelve days stop hope you receiving my requests promoney which unyet arrived stop unreceived schedule this week wherefore just gone ahead twice daily stop will continue same next week and will not standby admiral unless you specifically advise stop greatly appreciate you contact Ann etadvise me event
stop
stop written her copiously etreceived her mail/regards omniyou

richard hottelet

PRESS EDWARD MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

Please procure me fifteen minute spot friday night october sixth procolor piece ~~stop~~ para possible now shortwave film recordings direct newyorkward which will convenientest prohot material stop view apparent insecurity our communications may eye ~~request~~ ask newyork direct prospot proworthwhile recording or live show stop please acknowledge regards

richard hottelet

~~CBS Hottelet 2346 6 October 1944~~

~~Fighting on the American First Army front today spread to south of Aachen. Here our infantry began an attack with the limited objective of cleaning out the large wood south of Stolberg. It's here that~~

CBS Hottelet 1300 5 October 1944

during the night

The Germans counterattacked again xxxxxxxxxxx against

new bridgehead .

the xxxxxx we have throughx the Siegfried Line north of Aachen.

Once again the enemy's main effort was directed against the left

The Germans

flank of our salient, around the town of Ubach. --- ~~They~~ really are

and contain the breach

trying to cope with this new danger to their whole front,/before

~~across~~ the Cologne Plain

the bulk of our forces has a chance to pour through it/~~toward the Rhine~~. --- This German counterattack failed, despite some sharp artillery and mortar support; and at first light this morning our infantry got up in the bitter cold and started forward again over the soggy

meadows

~~ground~~ through drizzle and ground fog. --- We've only got fragmentary reports on the progress they've made, but these indicate that the Germans are bleeding themselves white in their attempt to keep us out of Germany. Our automatic weapons and our artillery are cutting them

frontline

down, and one/report this morning said that our vehicles had to stop at one point to clear dead Germans off the road. We won't know until later today how these various xxxxxxx bits of information fit into the general picture. One thing we do know is that the Germans, even if they are concentrating their main effort north of Aachen and pulling troops out of other points in the line to do it, aren't NEGLECTING the front southx of Aachen. They're still shelling along most of that line -- and their patrol activity has increased, especially in wooded country. At one point a German patrol of a hundred men was operating behind our lines last night -- and that's a lot of men for a patrol.

ABOUT the other main

-- Jerry is obviously worried, ~~he figures that~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxthe~~ bridgehead

~~[illegible]~~ ~~through his~~ west wall at Stolberg ~~may not remain quiet much longer.~~ ~~And~~ he's in the strategic predicament of a man who's got a

he hasn't ~~got~~ enough troops ~~and~~

blanket too short to cover both his feet and his head -/~~he's got to~~

SO HE'S TRYING TO

HAS

decidex where to put what he~~'s~~ got to meet the main threat ~~and try to hold that xxxxx~~ while

HE

~~they~~ waits for winter weather to provide the main xxxxxx obstacle to tha Allied advance.

AS CENSORED
5 OCT 1944
CENSOR

CBS Hottelet 2346 4 October 1944

North of Aachen the American First Army has now broken through the Siegfried Line on a front of three and a half miles. By late this afternoon infantry supported by tanks had pushed on east of the town of Ubach - which puts them out behind the last row of concrete emplacements. --- ~~And~~ this morning, the enemy started counterattacking our salient. He ~~started~~ BEGAN it ~~off~~ with an artillery barrage heavier than anything the men of this battle tried division have had since they landed in France. All through the night his artillery and mortars kept pounding the American area. And then, at three places -- right left and center, he began the attack. Some tanks he had brought up were used as mobile artillery - and at least one of them broke into our lines. A new machine gun battalion ~~had arrived~~ WAS THROWN in ~~the area~~ FOR SUPPORT. Yesterday's bad weather had given the enemy a chance to bring up more troops. --- The purpose of the counterattacks was ~~obviously~~ to stop us from pouring through the gap we had broken in Siegfried defenses -- and even to throw us back again. They failed completely. By the time I got up there at about noon, the situation was completely clear -- Our machine guns had done the infighting well (in the confusion of night;) and the artillery, leaning out farther forward, had clubbed the attacking German forces without mercy. We fished more than a hundred German prisoners out of a wood this morning that had been under our shell fire, and there were still dead and wounded lying in there. --- One thing about this attack was that - except for one unit that had come into the area from Finland - it was carried out with troops taken from the line. The enemy had no actual reserves to throw in and was borrowing from Peter to pay Paul. Well there's a limit to how fast you can juggle your resources from point to point (TO MEET FRESH BLOWS) - and we'll soon see the result. -- But in the meanwhile the artillery pounding we're taking in spots -- 4000 shells fell in one company area IN 35 MINUTES yesterday morning --- this show of strength is ample evidence that there are still two sides fighting this battle for the Rhine.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION AS CENSORED
Date 51
4 OCT 1944
NAME
E.F.
No.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

CBS Hottelet 1400 3October 1944

~~xamzFirsxxArmy~~ North of Aachen American First Army troops are this morning ~~[illegible]~~ AGAIN slugging their way into the Siegfried Line. Intermediate objectives have been taken, but there's no word yet that they're completely through. By dark last night we were moving tanks, tank destroyers and antitank guns across the narrow Wurm river. The infantry stayed out in front of them - but instead of continuing the push the regiments involved "buttoned up" for the night. ~~The~~ German fire has been too heavy in that sector, ~~and our losses since~~ ~~and artillery, mortar and machine gun~~ ~~able enough to make it~~ AND IT WAS wise to bring up more heavy stuff ~~[illegible]~~ before beginning another push. -- This morning we heard ~~the~~ our bombers roar overhead ~~again~~, so the men on the ground will again be getting air support.

~~The~~ The ~~particular section of the front where the~~ THE attack is going on ~~is~~ IN good tank country -- with broad open fields and level ground. ~~The only~~ BUT It has the drawback ~~is~~ that in spots it's not very solid ground. ~~And~~ And the very flatness of the terrain gives the Germans ~~the chance to observe our movements.~~ DIRECT OBSERVATION. That's why the ~~mechanics of this operation are to send the~~ old reliable infantry HAS GONE forward as assault troops -- ~~leave it~~ IT WAS UP to them to smoke out pillboxes, to comb out woods and prepare the way for the tanks and tank destroyers to follow. It doesn't mean that the armored boys are just passengers. When a pillbox remains to give us trouble the men in the tanks come ~~up~~ and shoot it out at pointblank range. AND THE ENGINEERS COME RIGHT UP TO WELD THEM SHUT ~~to~~ KEEP THE GERMANS FROM CRAWLING BACK. But, still and all, FIGHTING IN THIS ~~the~~ cold weather, ~~the~~ WITH damp ground and ~~the~~ piercing morning mists ~~keep~~ puts the greatest weight on the infantry -- and when the Siegfried Line is broken in this particular point as it has been South of Aachen, the boys who walk to war can take the main credit.

We expected the Germans to react pretty violently to this new attack. We expected them to bring up reserves as soon as they found where they were being hit – and launch a counterattack to restore the line. After all, ~~[illegible]~~ another break through the Siegfried Line ~~[illegible]~~ NORTH OF AACHEN ~~[illegible]~~ has strong strategic significance. It gives us another bridgehead to pour our forces into the Rhineland, and gives the Germans another place to defend with the limited resources they've got. -- Well, so far this morning there's no word of an enemy counterattack. It's still just heavy artillery, machinegun and mortar fire. // ~~[illegible]~~ BUT WORD HAS COME THAT new gangs of ~~[illegible]~~ civilian conscript labor are ~~[illegible]~~ DIGGING pathetic field obstacles. As if they would stop us ~~[illegible]~~ WHEN the concrete and steel of the Siegfried Line can't.

washed out

CBS Hottelet 2346 2 October 1944

At 11 o'clock

This morning American Infantry of our First Army ~~laced up their leggings; and at eleven o'clock~~ started to slug their way into the Siegfried Line north of Aachen. Tonight, when I left the front, they had advanced ~~several~~ two miles and were still fighting inside the German defenses -- they weren't all the way through -- but they had crossed a river and broken the stiffest outer crust of pillboxes and tank traps. Bridges had been built across the river, and tanks and tank destroyers had started to move across. ghting is still heavy, and our losses are painful, but the elements of a breakthrough are there -- courage, skill and equipment.

It's more than two weeks now since the First Army crossed the German border, and sent out some of its spearheads to break the Siegfried Line in two places south of Aachen. In these last weeks the tactical situation has changed. The swift movement that had swept the Germans out of France and Belgium piled strain after strain on our soldiers and on our supply lines. ~~We raced on as far as we could,~~ ~~and then~~ WE stopped to gain strength for the next plunge. Day and night the supply columns have moved forward behind our ~~front~~ LINE. And even though the actual front has been called static or quiet these last weeks; the infantry and the armor in the front line have hardly had a good days rest.-- Because the enemy seized the chance we gave him to build up fresh defenses -- to send more men and guns intoa Siegfried Line that had been bled white to build the Atlantic Wall and help bolster the Eastern Front. He brought up everything he could in the way of manpower-soldiers were dragged out of hospitals ~~and sent to the front~~; training formations were sent against us. And behind them women and children and old men have been digging tank traps and field fortifications. The Nazi Gauleiters issued the appeal to hold out into the winter, and sent the Gestapo out with the conscripts to make sure that patriotism didn't falter.

~~Xo;zwhznxzkexstoxmxbxokexzhizzmaxning~~

And all the time the enemy probed our ~~positions~~ LINE with patrols, and counterattacked to win back ~~favorable positions.~~ STRATEGIC POINTS All this ~~xxx~~ time our infantry was engaged, and our armor.

~~And~~ when the storm broke this morning, it broke against a desperate enemy in ~~prepared positions.~~ PREPARED POSITIONS. We had the initiative, so we could attack before the enemy could concentrate reserves. ~~Wexpickedzourzspotxandxhadxthexadvantagexofzinitiatizxsurprise.~~ The bombers came over - five hundred of them, with fragmentation bombs and ~~oil plattering~~ fire bombs. But many missed the target, and only the dive bombers screamed down to blast pillboxes. The greatest help to the infantry came from massed artillery -- from the big 240 mm to the tanks 75's. -- At eleven o'clock ~~xxx~~ our men moved forward. They had to move across absolutely flat country, ~~xxxxx~~ over the narrow ~~xx~~ Wurms river, over a railroad embankment against the pillboxes. Ahead of them ~~the~~ enemy observation posts on top of giant slag heaps, in church steeple and in tall trees watched them come. -- The infantry forded the narrow river and moved forward. Behind them came engineers to build bridges for the tanks and tank destroyers to follow. -- And those combat engineers built those bridges in the face of artillery, heavy machine gun ~~xxxx~~ and, still worse, mortar fire. Bulldozers and tankdozers gouged their way deeper into the ~~xxxx~~ rainsoaked ground and had to be dragged out with winches. But the work and the attack never faltered. By early afternoon the heaviest forward pillboxes had been reduced. Going was slow - enemy fire never let up either. After six hours of fighting one infantry battalion had had ~~40%~~ partic heavy casualties. I couldn't blame the officer who looked at my correspondent's badge and said - "Tell that to the so and so's back home who think the war is over".

~~This attack this morning is obviously the prelude to a much greater operation.~~ How and when it will develop remain to be seen. ~~But~~ today, once again, the German and American Armies are fighting it out on a line in a trial of strength. There's no doubt of the outcome; but our victory is not going to be easy.....

Did not get through

D.W. TAYLOR. I/C PRESS SECTION 1ST US ARMY.
FOR BROADCAST VIA [illegible] TO CBS LIVE SEPT. 30th. 1944.
12:01-12:03 GMT.
PAGE ONE. 1111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111

The news today from the First Army front, is again of patrols, consolidation, and occassional counter attacks by the enemy. Every indication points to the fact that xhexenemy he intends to contest every advance and fight bitterly for every inch of ground in defense of the Fatherland. His defenses in some cases amount to desperation, and his counter attacks have cost him heavily. This does not mean that he is fighting badly, and that his army is breaking to peices. On the contrary, he has had time to reform in some places, and points which were formerly weak, xxx are now stronger, and will require more force to penetrate.

In the vicinity of Echterbosch, northeast of Sittard, a small amount of territory was taken by our forces, but only after stiff fighting.

Between the Roer River and the Siegfried line, which run xxxxhlyxx roughly parallel to each other, our observations disclose that the Whermacht is diging additional anti tank ditches, and new foxholes for his ground troops.

In Aachen, the situation remains unchanged. There are xxxxxxxxxx sizeable numbers of German troops in the city, and the indication is that they intend to hold it. As a matter of fact, every soldier in Aachen was xxxx reported to have signed xxxx an agreement that he fully understood he was to defend xxxxxx the city to the last man and the last cartridge.

In the town of Stolberg, there is still building by building street fighting going on. We still hold the southern half of the city, with the Germans occupying the north half.

(MORE)

CENSOR

D. TAYLOR. CBS SEPT. 30TH
PAGE TWO.222222222222222222222222222222222222222222222222222222

I was in Stolberg recently, and heard the street fighting, and watched civilians scurry to places of cover as the fighting increased, then reappear on the streets as it diminished. They looked bewildered and frightened. For the first time in their lives they were in line of fire from their own troops. This was a new kind of war they were told would never happen, and they haven't been told how to behave.

This is Dave Taylor with the First U.S. Army in Eastern Belgium returning you to CBS in New York.

-30-

TION
3[illegible] SEP 1941
FIELD PRESS

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

PRESS MURROW COLUMBIAX BROADCASTING NEW YORK

Jig easy sugar queen now temporarily detached stop please route all messages press wireless para please tentatively arrange extra time 2230 october second stop sorry cant be more definite regards

Richard Hottelet

URGENT PRESS

MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

Unreceived october first schedule please advise regards

Richard Hottelet

PRESS MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

Unreceived money requested three weeks ago stop view delay please rush additional five hundred dollars cheers

Richard Hottelet

URGENT PRESS

MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

Unreceived

~~XXXXTheXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXtively~~

The actual First Army battle front is still comparatively quiet today. Which means that it's the usual story of bitter little patrols and jockeying for local positions. Quiet for a lot of people, but not for the infantry. ---- At any rate it is quiet enough to look around at something apart from a military situation. And, as a matter of fact, the more I've looked around the more I've found that the whole business of the soldier vote is worthy of close attention. Now, we're forbidden by army regulations from going around and trying to fnd out whom the boys are voting for. That's not my job anyway. But I have gone around trying to find out what the boys think about the whole business of voting. After all, tomorrow is the day on which soldier voting starts. Tomorrow the men in uniform will start marking their ballots for the next president and the next congress of the United States -- So during the last week or so I've been asking the men wherever I went how the mechanics of the thing were working. The answers I've gotten have not been very reassuiring. In all it seems to me that just over half the men say they intend to vote. Some say that the business of getting a ballot from their home states is too complicated -- or that they were busy in the front line or at one of the multitude of military jobs when the call went out to apply for state or federal ballots -- and they just never got around to asking for a ballot. But a lot of them have told me a very interesting thing. They've said, "We asked for a ballot and we got it. We got a long list of names -- a long list of strangers names. We don't know who the people are. We don't know what the issues are. We can't vote intelligently because we don't know what makes one strange name different from another strange name." ~~When you look at the facts this is perfectly true.~~ You'd be surprised how little information the man in the front lines does get. They haven't got regular radio and newspaper srvice; Even in quiet times they're pretty busy up front there doing their jobs. They have practically no opportunity to get political information; and I'll bet that the majority of the Gee Eyes know

little more about the candidates and issues than that Roosevelt and Dewey are the main candidates for president. -- It's not the army's fault. The army is ~~is walking a political tightrope in anything that concerns this election. It's~~ afraid to touch anything that might be interpreted as contpoversial. --- The upshot of it all is that now, when millions of men are in the field fighting for the right to vote; ~~at a time when it's more necessary than ever for America to be politically awake~~ -- we find that most of the soldiers, at least in this part of the world are either not voting, or haven't enough political information to cast an intelligent vote.

little more about the candidates and issues than that Roosevelt and Dewey are the main candidates for president. — It's not the army's fault. The army is walking a political tightrope in anything that concerns this election. It's afraid to touch anything that might be interpreted as controversial. — The upshot of it all is that now, when millions of men are in the field fighting for the right to vote; at a time when it's more necessary than ever for America to be politically awake — we find that most of the soldiers, at least in this part of the world are either not voting, or haven't enough political information to cast an intelligent vote.

D.M. BAYLOR. W/C PRESS SECTION. 1ST US ARMY.
FOR BROADCAST VIA PREMI TO CBS LIVE SEPT. 29TH. 1944.
13:01-13:03 GMT.
PAGE ONE. 1111111111111111111111111111111111111111111

The First Army ~~xx~~ positions this morning are relatively the same as they were yesterday. Some local advances have been made, but the action is largely that of active patrolling and consolidation. You might call it technically a quiet front. But you might be interested in what a quiet front is like in this area of the war.

Yesterday, I made quite an extensive tour of several sectors of the front, ~~ztaxtingxearlyxinxthexmorningxandx~~ from early morning until nightfall. We visited artillery observation posts, infantry posts, ~~andxatxonexpoint,inxonextownxreachedxthe~~ into the city of Stolberg, where there is street fighting and the Germans still occupy the northern section of the city. ~~xxx~~ One could hear the wham of tank ~~shellsxgain~~ guns going off, and the blast of enemy gunfire as the town was being fought for, building by building. ~~xex~~I also ~~visted~~ visited the point of deepest penetration into Germany. It's an infantry outpost, about twelve miles ariline distance from the German border, southeast of Stolberg. The G.I.'s were ~~xlx~~ well dug in, and they joked about severe local counter attacks they had ~~repus~~ repulsed. ~~xe xtxtheixxcommandxx postxtheirxcommandingxofficerx~~ During ~~the~~ our stay we got a few artillery shells in uncpmfortable proximity.

"It's pretty quiet right now," said the commanding officer, "but Jerry usually does his stuff between midnight and dawn. Sometimes it gets pretty rough."

I looked around the area; men were covering foxholes, which looked damp and cold and uncomfortable. I felt a little ashamed that I was going back to a reasonably safe place to sleep.

(MORE)

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
BY
Date 29 SEP 1944
NAME
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

send out our own reconnaissance patrols. And we send out combat patrols too, to give his front line a shaking up or to bring back prisoners.

HOTTELET: You lead your patrols, Sergeant. How many've you been on? ~~How many patrols have you been on?~~

REED: Oh, about 75, since D Day

HOTTELET: Do you run into trouble as a rule. Well on combat patrols we look for trouble - and we find it. Sometimes Jerry ~~[illegible]~~ opens up on us with mortars and machine guns and handgrenades when we get close. But sometimes they let us get in and then close the mousetrap on us. That happened the other night. We were in their lines -- and all of a sudden we saw two red flares. Then the mortar shells came in; and the rattlesnakes opened up on us and we had to fight our way out again --- But even when you're out on reconnaissance patrol and your job isn't to fight, but to bring back information. You get close calls then to . About four days ago we were sitting upstairs in a house behind the German lines, doing some observing out of a bedroom window; and we saw some Jerries walk into the house. They must have come to get some food, because they only stayed 15 or 20 minutes and didn't come upstairs.

HOTTELET: That must take some steady nerves, to go out on those patrols.

REED: Well . it mainly takes experience and proper training. I'm an old soldier; I've been in the army 5 years, so I know my way around. And I'm quarter indian - and I guess that's good background for poking around in the woods. But the younger boys - especially the big city boys ~~boys that come from the big cities make~~ need some toughening up for this sort of thing. They'd be better off if the infantry training back home was closer to combat conditions. They've got to learn how to handle themselves in the woods and under small arms fire. Because, you see, the infantryman never stops fighting -- he's got the enemy close to him all the time, even if the front is quiet -- and the enemy is still making it pretty hot.

HOTTELET: That was Sergeant Clarence REED of Oklahoma with Richard C. Hottelet at Columbia's travelling microphone.

CBS Hottelet 29 September 1944 recording

For a couple of weeks ~~after~~ since the American First Army broke through the Siegfried Line the front has been more or less static. That's to say there have been no dramatkc developments - no great breakthroughs, no pincer movements. The communiques and commentaries have spoken of a lull, or a pause in the fighting. ~~X~~-- That's probably all pretty true as far as grand strategy goes, but when you get up into the front line -- especially with the infantry - you see that they've been having Anything but a quiet time. --- We've brought the CBS travelling microphone up to a front line infantry position; and we're going to ask an old soldier - Staff Sergeant Clarence W. Reed of Hinton, Oklahoma - to tell you what he and his men have been doing on this so-called quiet front.

REED: Well, we've been doing two jobs all this time - doing them day and night. We've been holding the line against enemy counterattacks and patrols.....

HOTTELET: ~~Xxxx~~ Before you tell about your second job, how about these enemy patrols. Do you get many of them?

REED: We sure do. They come in every night, snooping and prowling around to find out where~~x~~ we're stationed and how strong we are. ~~Xxxxxx~~ They come in at all hours. Usually it's one, two or three o'clock in the morning. -- But you get them coming in in broad daylight too. And the strong combat patrols, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,~~ they come to pick a fight. They ~~xxxx~~ have about 30 or 40 men, and they carry mortars and bazookas and rattlesnake guns. They're ~~theyxcomextoxpickxaxfightxxandxIxcanxtellxyou,xwexgivexitxtoxthem.xThey~~ mean cusses, those Jerries, and they bang hell out of our front line. ~~They come over just at dark, usually, or just before daylight, and~~ we've got to be ready to give them a fight any time.

HOTTELET: What are ~~xxx~~ rattlesnake guns?

REED: They're machine guns. We call 'em rattlesnake guns because they fire so fast.

HOTTELET: Well, that's one part of your job. What about the other.

REED: The other part is us carrying patrols into the enemy lines. You see, we've got to go out and get information on the enemy -- so we

12135

D.M. BAYLOR. W/C PRESS SECTION 1ST US ARMY.
FOR BROADCAST VIA PREWI TO CBS LIVE. SEPT. 28th. 1944.
22:46-22:48 GMT.
PAGE ONE. 1111111111111111111111111111111111111111

~~Our enemy on the German frontier seems to be giving every evidence tonight that he is determined to fight for every inch of his Fatherland which we have wrested from him. Even though there have been no xxxxxxxx actions of sweeping importante anywhere on the front today, the Whermacht harrasses our troops with counter attacks and artillery fire. His counter attacks are costing him heavily, and his artillery is alternately accurate and wild.~~

The First army positions are relatively the same as they were yesterday. Some local advances have been made, but the action is largely that of active patroling and consolidation. You might call it technically a quiet day at the front, but you might be interested in what a quiet day at the front is like.

We made quite an extensive tour of several sectors of the front today, from ~~starting~~ early this morning, ~~and continuing~~ until nightfall. We visited artillery observation posts, infantry posts, and at one time in our tour, we xxx reached the deepest point of Allied penetration into Germany. An airline distance of approximately twelve miles, in the vicinity xxxxxxxxx east of xxxxx Stolberg. The name of the village isn't important for it probably doesn't even show on your map. It was an infantry outpost, where the G.I.'s were well dug in, ~~and had adequate amunition and weapons~~. They were in good spirits and talked in amusing terms about the local counter attacks they had repulsed, ~~and indulged in the sort of small talk you'll find anywhere soldiers gather~~. We went to their command post and talked to their commanding officer. During our stay, we got

12135

D. BAYLOR. CBS. SEPT 8TH. 22:46. GMT.
PAGE TWO. 22222222222222222222222222222222222222222

a few artillery shells in unconfortable proximity. ~~The hills of the Ardennes forest echoed and re-echoed with the rumble of artillery, both ours and the enemy's~~ ~~At~~ ~~At that point, the lines whre only a short distance apart, and you could hear both the report of the enemy gun, and a few seconds later the explosion of the incoming shell.~~

"It's pretty quiet right now," said the officer, "but Jerry usually does his stuff between midnight and dawn. Sometimes it gets pretty rough."

~~About that time there were two sharp reports from~~

I looked around the area; men were covering foxholes, which looked damp, and cold and uncomfortable. I felt a little ashamed that I was going back to ~~the reasonable~~ a ~~xx~~ reasonably safe place to sleep. And I wonder how they're doing this moment, for it's almost midnight over here.

Just before we left, a lieutenant walked in. In a very matter of fact voice he said: "We just got it down my way. Killed Sergeant so and so and wounded another man." Nobody said anything, but they all knew the sergeant. There's nothing to say at a time like that, because that's what war is like; you try not to think of who or what the Sergeant was, ~~that~~ ~~now~~ it becomes a sort of impersonal, ~~thing~~. Even on quiet days, death is a common thing.

This is Dave Baylor with the First U.S. Army in Eastern Belgium, returning you to General Electric in New York.

PASSED BY [illegible] CATION
28 SEP 1944

CBS Hottelet 2346 27 September 1944

This afternoon I saw, - on a very small scale - the fulfilment of one of our war aims:- one of the/political things the American Army has come to Germany to do.

I saw a case tried in the first impartial court that's functioned in Germany for almost twelve years. A young American Army captain was judge, and his Military Government court was in the former dining room of a little village restaurant. - The case itself was unimportant -- two men charged with stealing some army coal. It was the procedure that was important. There were no politics, everything was in the open. The accused had their own civilian lawyer. Theycalled their own witnesses, they crossexamined the prosecution's witnesses. Theyx had every chance they would have had in an American courtroom. --I asked the German lawyer what he thought of the proceedings. He said it was the first time since 1933 thatxx he'd been able wholeheartedly to defend someone accused of a crime against the governing power without feeling he was putting his own head in the lion's mouth.

It'll take some fighting, though, before we extend this equality before the law to the rest of Germany. This two weekppause on the First Army front, and the bad flying weather, have made the enemy bolder. Now he's taken to infiltrating back into captured woods and pillboxes when he can to cause trouble. We haven't been demolishing pillboxes because it takes too much TNT, butwe have been burying them with bulldozers. On occasion recently, Jerry has dug his way back in, sonow we're welding the steel doors shut. -- And his railroads are pretty nervy; they're dumping supplies and reinforcements within 3000 yards of our lines - so close that ourx tanks have taken trains under fire. --- Speaking of trains, we now have supplies brought up BY RAIL prettyx far ourselves in addition to road convoys. // A German prisoner, just transferred from the Russian front said the other day that Russia was cold but the west was too hot. Well, It's going to get much hotter.

This is Richard C. Hottelet with the American First Army in Belgium returning you now to General Electric in New York.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
Date 27 SEP 1944
NAME
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

CBS Hottelet 1300 27 September 1944

Sixteen men of one of the best infantry divisions in
took time out from the big and small miseries of war
the American army ~~washedxthemselvesxmorexcarefullyx~~ this morning, put
on what clean clothes they had and came to stand in the sunshine and
from the
hear their commanding general call them heroes. All of them ~~from~~ one
major to three first class privates were being given the Distinguished
Service Cross -- the second highest medal for bravery that our nation
has to give. ---- All the awards were for actions performed in the first
hours and days of their invasion of Europe; and as the adjutant read
the individual citations you heard the same words -- "for extraordinary
heroism" -"for leading his men through uncharted minefields to storm
machinegun positions" --"for tending the wounded and dying on the
fireswept beaches and in the bloodied water of the Normandie coast.
but
-- Most of the men were getting their first DSC:- ~~but~~ Lieutenant
an oak leaf
John D. Shelby of Slaton, Texas was getting ~~a~~ cluster to the DSC he
had won during the invasion of Sicily.

They stood there, these men -- only a few hundred yards
~~fxxxxxt~~ from the German border. The clipped voice of the adjutant
by whooshes in the sky overhead
was punctuated/by the detonation of our heavy artillery shells in the
distance -- as if the gunners wanted to add some applause to the
sober little ceremony. The Corsp Commander went down the line, saluting
as he pinned on the medal
and shaking hands with each man - exchanging a few friendly words --
Captain Robert Woodard of Rockland Massachusetts got a little red, and
spikes
the ~~ends~~ of his waxed mustache stood out a little straighter; Private
First Class Henry Berkowitz of Brooklyn, New York gulped - and his
And when the last Bronze Cross with its deep blue, red-banded ribbon was pinned on
adam's apple went up and down. ~~And then~~ the Corps Commander, a two
fisted soldier, summed it up about as well as you can. He said - We can
The plans ~~out~~
plan -- but~~it~~ it's ~~the~~ men like you who carry ~~them~~ out and win the
(ahead of)
victory. It's men like you who've brought us into Germany ~~on~~ schedule,
and, by God, will soon bring us to the Rhine.

US First Army in Germany, calling from [illegible], return to CBS in New York.

CBS Hottelet 2346 , 26 September 1944

After four days of rain the First Army saw the sun again this afternoon; and driving along behind the front we went through clouds of dust again instead of showers of mud. But there's a nip in the air - and the GI has been glad to get the long woollen underwear that's being issued him for the winter. --- The front has remained quiet, except for a noticeable increase in German artillery fire. They really laid it on, yesterday and again this morning, without much result.

This particular phase of the Battle for Germany -- these days before the army gets the order from General Eisenhower to get up and move -- this phase belongs to the individual soldier. It's a time of patrol and counterpatrol. Little groups of men are sent out from our lines on reconnaissance -- often only two or three together --- to find their way over into the enemy positions, to observe where he's strongest, what roads he uses, where his automatic weapons are. It's on jobs like these that a man shows how good a soldier he is. The way he behaves when machinegun bullets whistle his way; all his reactions and reflexes determine whether he's going to get back with his information -- or if he's going to get back at all. -- There are strong combat patrols, who're prepared to fight; and there are ambush patrols to discourage the enemy from sending out his own reconnaissance. No matter what the mission -- it's up to the individual men. -- Our soldiers are pretty good at patrolling, and the informationthey're getting will help a lot when the order comes to advance.

This individuality of the soldier shows itself TOO ~~in different ways; and but in static times like these, when he tends to be stationed in the same place for a week or two, you can see it very plainly~~ in the way he lives. ~~It's a lot of fun~~ YOU OUGHT to go up forward and see the foxholes the boys dig for themselves- the longer they stay ~~there~~ IN ONE PLACE the more elaborate they become, and by now some of them are approaching the underground villa stage - built in an angle; ~~and~~ lined with cardboard and canvas and blankets for warmth and covered over with branches and earth for camouflage and protection.-- But comfortable as they may become there's no one who doesn't want to get out of them and deeper into Germany.

CBS Hottelet 1300 26 September 1944

The sun is out weakly again this afternoon, for the first time in four days; and the GI's up here on the First Army front with their new woollen winter underwear are taking a more cheerful view of things. The front has remained quiet, except for a noticeable increase in German artillery fire. They really laid it on, yesterday and again this morning -- in some places firing on anything behind our lines that moved. --- This particular phase of the Battle for Germany -- these days before the Army gets the order from General Eisenhower to get up and move -- this phase belongs to the individual soldier. It's a time of patrol and counterpatrol. Little groups of men are sent out from our lines on reconnaissance -- often only two or three together -- to find their way over into the enemy positions, to observe where he's strongest, what roads he uses, where his automatic weapons are. It's on jobs like these that a man shows how good a soldier he is- the way he sneaks down a street, or through a clump of trees -- the way he behaves when the machine gun bullets whistle his way; all his reactions and reflexes determine whether he's going to get back with his information -- or if he's going to get back at all. -- There are combat patrols ~~in platoon strength~~ who're prepared to fight -- and there are ambush patrols to ~~keep~~ discourage the enemy from sending out his own reconnaissance. No matter what the mission - it's up to the individual man.-- Our men are pretty good at patrolling-- they haven't had as much training in it as the Germans because they haven't been soldiers as long. But the information they're getting will help a lot when the order comes to advance, ~~in the next breakthrough.~~

The artillery fire the Germans are laying on their own towns behind our lines is having its effect on the German civilians. yesterday a funeral mass was said in a little village for an American military policeman who'd been killed in a jeep accident. The whole town came to the mass in mourning, the little church was draped in black and the casket was heaped with flowers the villagers had brought.

CBS Hottelet 2346 25 September 1944

Today has been one of the quietest days we've had on the First Army front for a long while. Except for artillery fire, and a couple of skirmishes including one in which some Messerschmitts came over to strafe -- except for these there was nothing much doing. The boys did feel themselves part of a much bigger war this morning, though, when we heard the drone of the big bombers overhead, on their way to German communications targets. It's an awesome sound - a steady throbbing roar. ~~I've had people~~ This territory here is bomber's highway into Germany. The Belgians used to rejoice when they heard the sound; but the Germans tell me it made them tremble.

Nowadays these Germans have other worries. The enemy has moved more artillery up - including some railroad guns; and he's laying shells into German towns without any thought for his own people. Our Military Government tries to evacuate civilians from these danger spots, but three times now German artillery and mortar shells have fallen among these evacuees and killed and injured some children and some women. It's not increasing their love for the Nazis who're keeping this war going.

The First Army's time is being taken up very largely with --just housekeeping. The cold rainy weather is making it difficult for the men out in the open to relax; but they're sewing their buttons on, getting their clothes in order; and now the quartermasters are sending out winter uniforms -- thick woollen clothes that'll be very welcome. ~~And there's been time for General Hodges to get out around among the men up front, see how they feel -- and today award some decorations.~~

But the housekeeping is on a very much larger scale. The G-4, who handles supplies is having a field day - for all his headaches. When you drive along behind the front thousands of supply trucks kick mud up in your face. Everything is moving forward -- guns, shells, gas, rations, machines -- and hospitals. You get the impression of a great spring being compressed, a spring that'll jump to the Rhine when General Eisenhower lets it go.

BELGIUM

PASSED FO
Date 25 SEP 1944
NAME
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

98

BPAC 89 #17

D.M. BAYLOR W/C PRESS SECTION. 1STUS ARMY.
FORBROADCAST VIA 399 T CBS. SEPT. 25th. 12:01-12:03 GMT.
PAGE ONE. 111111111111111 11111111111111111111

The War news today from this area of the fighting is not very sensational in character. It has been a period of consolidation of forces ~~on our part~~. All along the line, which roughly is the border of Germany proper, the situation is described as static. This is due partly to the weather, which has hampered air action and made artillery observation difficult for both our forces and those of the Whermacht.

Active patroling ~~activity~~ has been carried out by our forces in a probing of German positions all along the line. There was one flurry of action ~~activity~~ in which a German force, of two company strength successfully counterattacked in one area, seizing a crossroad. In a return counter attack, we retook the position. Then a second German counterattack resulted in the loss of the greater part of the enemy force, and the holding of the position by our forces. This seems like a small thing, but with the problem of supply~~ing our forces~~ as great as it is, every section of road, every intersection, every point over which our supplies must move is of utmost importance.

Enemy artillery activity in the northern xxxxx sector of XXX General Hodges First Army front, was increased yesterday, and some damage was done, although lack of adequate observation made it ~~such enemy artillery action~~ less ~~in~~accurate.

Xxxxxx Patrols are active in the Aachen- Stolberg area, where most of what fighting there is, has taken place, ~~has been centered~~. Further to the south, in the northern Luxumbourg area where Belgium, Luxumbourg and Germany meet, the situation has also been

(MORE)

static in ~~character~~ nature, with some patrol activity into enemy areas.

Yesterday, one of our So called "hog callers" the name given to loudspeaker trucks which are brought up to the front to urge the Germans to surrender their positions, was opearting in the Stolberg Area. They called upon the Germans there to surrender. They were surprised to hear an answer over a German loudspeaker. Whereupon a battle of amplified words was waged for some minutes with no victory being credited to either vehicle.

This is Dave Baylor with the First U.S. Army, speaking from Germany, and returning you to CBS in New York.

-30-.

CBS Hottelet ~~18~~ 1930 24 September 1944

Again this afternoon there's no change to report from the American First Army Front: - but you can see more plainly the strength that we and the enemy are concentrating behind our ~~fronts~~ LINES. On the German side the emphasis is on last ditch defense, and community digging parties hopped up with patriotism and watched by the SS are working on antitank ditches and emplacements both behind the Siegfried Line and behind the Rhine. ~~x~~ We can say now, too, that Rundstedt has been restored to the command ~~the~~ of all the German forces in the west -- obviously a move by Hitler to heal the breach between Army and Party. ON THE MATERIAL SIDE The enemy has also brought up more artillery recently, including railroad guns.

But when it comes to guns he can't compete with us. We ~~are~~ now have 240 millimeter guns -- ten inch guns - sending their 400 pound projectiles into his communications. They're reaching halfway to the Rhine. And the 155 mm long toms are getting in there too.

~~The man at the front doesn't notice much of this great buildup yet, except for the artillery.~~

The man at the front is beginning to feel ~~the~~ THIS buildup. ~~Then~~ This morning again the Germans ~~[illegible]~~ launched several sharp counterattacks ~~on our front~~. At one point they ~~recaptured some~~ CAME early this morning AFTER AN ARTY BARRAGE several companies strong - with tommyguns, and flame throwers. ~~After an artillery barrage~~ they recaptured three pillboxes and took a whole platoon of our infantry prisoner. We had to counterattack stubbornly to throw the Germans out of the pillboxes again, and liberate the captured platoon. We killed or captured half the German force before ~~it~~ THE FIGHT was over; but not without suffering our own losses.

That's the way the big play of forces is making itself felt in a smaller way at the front. It won't be long, though, before everything is back on a big scale.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION

Date 24 SEP 1944

NAME No.

FIELD PRESS CENSOR

CBS Hottelet 1400 24 September 1944

The First Army front is still what the communique would call static; and I think the soldiers' main effort has been to keep warm and dry. It's been the raw sort of day that makes you wish you could transfer the war to Madison Square Garden. There's a chill in the air, and a stiff breeze pushes it through your clothes. The ground is still soft and muddy from yesterday's heavy rain, and there's a sharp drizzle today to make sure that everything stays wet. -- The men in the tanks are keeping their hatches closed -- and the men in the infantry and artillery positions have curled up in their shelters and foxholes wherever they could to stay dry. hen they've come out for lunch the big cans of peas and goulash have sent out bigger clouds of steam than usual. The boys in barns and farmhouses are lucky - they can get themselves a fire going. And I've seen little groups of men in fields holding their hands out to a gasoline stove. A round them ~~in the fields~~ the Holstein cows lie in black and white disconsolate little heaps.

But the men up front in the forward infantry positions don't have much chance to warm up -- or even to stay dry unless their position is in a captured German pillbox. And, in addition to their plain physical misery, they're still getting short, sharp local counter-attacks today. Because this front may be static, but it never sleeps.

One thing about the weather, it's the same for friend and foe. We hear this morning that the Germans have large civilian labor gangs including women and children out digging earthworks and antitank ditches back behind the Rhine. Other Germans are much better off. They're the ones behind our lines. Lots of them are beginning to replace the broken glass in their windows. They seem to have plenty of glass, and we've been wondering where they got it. Well, they've been using the glass on pictures of Hitler and Goering and other big Nazis -- which is probably the first real use they've ever been.

PRESS WIRELESS INC.

py75

london 36/33 23rd 1108 a prewi

press richard c hottelet

cbs first us army care prewi france

scheduling you sunday 9/24 13.01.30 13.03.30 gmt
and 18.31 18.33.45 stop monday through saturday
12.01 12.03 and 22.45 22.48 regards

edward murrow

ag 430p

Hottelet

PRESS WIRELESS INC.

PY 77 London 22/21 paid 23 1204pm press richard c hottelet

cbs first usarmycare of prewi france --

correcting your sunday schedule 18.31 - 18.32.45 gmt

edward murrow

605pm

D. BAYLOR. W/C PRESS SECTION. 1ST US ARMY.
FOR BROADCAST LIVE VIA PREWI TO CBS 12:01-12:03 GMT. SEPT 23.
PAGE ONE. 11111111111111111111111111111111111111111111

There are no developments of a startling nature in this part of the war today. It is still a battle of consolidation on our part and one of desperate counter attacks ~~and defensive action~~ on the part of the Germans.

All along the battle front, we are consolidating our positions to give us strength when the time comes for a complete ~~break~~ consolidation ~~through all along~~ of the Siegfried line. ~~German~~ Enemy activity has ~~been~~ been described as unskillful but fierce. His counter attacks have lost him a good many troops, but have accomplished nothing else. Reinforcements he brought to bolster his dwindling forces in the west have been badly mauled. ~~by our tanks, infantry and concentrated artillery fire.~~ Prisoners taken by General Hodges First Army alone since D-Day total 182,493, ~~Bringing~~ bringing the total bag for allied forces to over 450,000. No army can afford to lose that many good troops for very long. There are no new penetrations of the Siegfried line, but we are consolidating the breached we have made, and continue to strengthem them all along the fighting front.

~~In the Stol~~ Fighting continues in the city of Stolberg, which lies approximately ten miles inside Germany Proper. ~~The de~~ There is fighting to the east of Stolberg also, and the deepest penetration made into the Reich is estimated to be about fifteen miles.

Aachen is still in German hands this morning. Yesterday afternoon Richard Hottellet OF CBS and I were at a forward artillery observation post overlooking the city of Aachen. We were

(MORE)

D. BAYLOR.
PAGE TWO. 222222222222222222222222222222222222222222222222

close enough to read signs on buildings, but we saw no activity in ~~Aachen~~ the city. It was deathly quiet. The only movement we noticed was a woman and a dog walking hurriedly along one of Aachen's x streets. We watched while a xx salvo of ~~our~~ American artillery raised a cloud of dust along one of the main roads leading out ~~of the city,~~ but every building seemed to be deserted. ~~Their~~x An air of impending doom hovered over the city, perhaps a portent of the eventual doom of all Germany.

This is Dave Baylor with the First U.S. Army in Eastern Belgium returning you to x&xRxixx&ixxxxixnix the Columbia Broadcasting System in New York.

CBS Hottelet 2339 21 September 1944

When you get up into an Army area - even as big a one as the American First Army's - ~~you're out on the end of a long pole.~~ YOU'VE GOT YOUR NOSE DEEP INTO THE FIGHTING SIDE OF WAR ~~Behind you are all the rear headquarters - the Army Groups, the Theater Headquarters. And it's not xx until you get back behind them that the world opens out. -- Up here you've got your nose pretty deeply into war. You get to be an expert on what X Division or Y Corps is doing today - you know which roads are now safe, and where new bridges have been built. But outside your xxxxx you seldom see a newspaper, you only occasionally hear the radio, and you get along on only a very sketchy knowledge of the big things going on in the world outside. And, even though you try to keep abreast of things, you find that your range of vision does narrow down.~~

~~That's probably why~~ But every once in a while, ~~after you've driven around for days, all of a sudden a lot of heterogeneous facts fall together, and you realize that you're with an Army that's making more than just military history.~~ You see again just where all these guns and supplies and men fit into the big POLITICAL picture of war and peace.

That's just what's happened to me, and I'll tell you how. --- During the last week I've been out in a jeep from early to late driving up to the front and around behind it. ~~Now, it happens that these areas cover mainly the xxxxxxxx~~ I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Belgian districts of Moresnet, Eupen and Malmedy. They stretch right along the German border about eighty miles from Holland in the north to France in the south. The important thing about them is that Hitler incorporated them all into Germany in 1940 -- didn't just occupy them, but made them part of the Greater German Reich.

As it happens I speak moderately good German, so I made it a point to drive up and down through these areas trying to find out how these people felt about having been in Hitler's 1000 year

Empire, and now being out of it again. ~~At first glance it didn't look too good. When we went into the TOWN of Eupen the inhabitants received us with blank stares, and an attitude that certainly didn't seem friendly. And driving through the countryside, there were no flags out and no cheers and nobody throwing us fruit.~~ I wondered if PERHAPS people ~~maybe~~ the people might not prefer to remain part of Germany. It wouldn't have surprised me too much, because the great majority of the people in these areas speak German and are German THEY WERE PART OF GERMANY BEFORE 1914 -- and they've been propagandized into an exaggerated race pride ~~in race~~ by the Nazis for years. It's on just such people as these - Germans living outside the borders of Germany all over Europe - that Hitler mainly relied in building up his New Nazi ~~Europe.~~ CONTINENT.

x

Well, I decided to ~~go at this thing~~ look around with an open mind. And, as I travelled I asked questions. I spoke to people coming down the road on bicycles, or at street corners, or in restaurants and public squares. ~~#In Eupen I got stopped alongside a queue waiting to get meat rations, and found that the coldness of the people was largely due to fright and uncertainty. German artillery was still falling around, some believed the nazi horror stories of about American troops, they didn't know whether the German Army might not come back. Then I spoke to individuals - just at random.~~ I asked them how the Germans had behaved. They answered, all right. I asked them ~~where~~ HOW ABOUT the Nazis. ~~were.~~ And when I started to talk about Nazis I got answers with genuine bitterness -- mainly to the effect that those people, or those bums had run away. I asked why they felt ~~so bitter~~ AS BITTER AS ALL THAT about the Nazis if they hadn't been badly treated. -- And, frankly, I was a bit surprised by the answer. The woman with the baby on her arm, the older woman with the basket, the man with the ~~big~~ threadbare jacket and big, caloused workman's hands all said essentially the same thing. They didn't like the Nazis because under the Nazis they had no freedom. The man in the patched jacket produced a pink slip -- I'd seen many of those in Germany. It was a Ge-

2

x

stapo warrant for his "protective arrest". The Nazis had tried, with their propaganda and with their secret police, ~~xxxxxx~~ to make Greater Germans out of these people and had only refreshed ~~their love of freedom.~~ A DESIRE FOR LIBERTY. – It was the same in the purely agricultural Moresnet area -- the farmers there were sick and tired of the Nazi Peasant Leaders, and agricultural inspectors and other party hacks that swarmed over their land and told them what to do and how. ~~They wanted their freedom too. --- So I asked these people if they thought they'd be better off as part of Belgium -- seeing as how they didn't speak French, and were really Germans. They said yes. Under Belgian administration nobody'd bothered them, and they assumed~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~it'd be that way again.~~ THEY WERE PERFECTLY SATISFIED TO BECOME PART OF BELGIUM AGAIN WHERE NO ONE'D BOTHERED THEM.

3

I travelled south then, through Malmedy, ~~where the country is not quite so German -- you see more French names on shop windows, and you hear more French spoken. These people too had no desire at all to be part of Greater Germany, or any regret that there wasn't going to be any Greater Germany.~~ From there we took the jeep ~~still farther down~~ AND through all of Luxemburg. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ This little country ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ is mainly what the Nazis would call Germanic -- the national language is a German dialect, and the names are mostly German. Luxemburg was important to the Nazis as a German racial outpost in the west. They gave it ~~a~~ ITS OWN Gauleiter. And they turned the propaganda heat full on. -- In a basement room ~~in the capital~~ OF THE NAZI OFFICE BUILDING I found bushels of ~~bags~~ FLAGS and banners, made in Berlin, expressing Luxemburg's joy at returning home to the Reich. But the sight of a square full of people singing the Luxemburg anthem with sincere emotion, and the national flags and pictures hung everywhere – flags and pictures that had obviously been hidden away four and a half years -- made it plain that the people ~~xxx~~ really ~~had been~~ FELT liberated. And everywhere I got the same stories -- one man arrested twice for unfriendly remarks about the Germans, a woman whose husband is still in prison in Germany

and whose son is in the German Army in Russia. I got the usual stories of fear of the Gestapo, and fear of strangers and Nazi spies.

And then it seemed to me that maybe I'd made an important discovery. --The American Army is in Europe fighting a political battle; a battle to get rid of Nazis and Nazi ideas and thereby help Europe get an enduring peace. Now, we've all expected the occupied peoples to hate the Nazis; but A lot of us have thought that it might be a tough job to get Nazism out of the system of the Germans themselves. --- Well, here in these new additions to Germany, the Nazis had made themselves so obnoxious that the people were happy and anxious to get back to freedom and democracy.

Of course it's too soon to say whether this will be the case in Germany proper. I've been to only comparatively few villages inside Germany. But there too, the ordinary peasant men and women I've spoken to have nothing but scorn for the Nazis. One large factor in this is that all important party members run like hares a week before American troops appear, to save their own skins. They leave the little party members behind and the ordinary people without any civil administration. Right now in Aachen they're going to the other extreme and just herding people back like cattle -- and we're getting a steady trickle of German civilians who cross the front line to escape the Nazis and find shelter with the Americans. ~~I've had more than one German tell me that they want personal liberty more than anything else.~~ One priest almost wept when he talked about President Roosevelt's four freedoms.

As I say, it's too soon to draw any sweeping generalization -- but it's not impossible that the very uncivilized brutality of the Nazi system that has kept it in power may now be producing a reaction even in the Germans, and a desire to get rid of it root and branch. -- If that's so ~~this is~~ it's the most important thing I've seen in the five years I've been covering this war.

CBS Hottelet 2346 22 September 1944

It takes two sides to fight a decsive battle -- otherwise THERE WOULD BE ONE ~~the fighting~~ along the First Army front tonight~~, would be one. For their part~~ The Germans are certainly putting in everything they've got WAY UP FORWARD to keep us from widening ~~and extending~~ our breaches in the Siegfried Line. Today is the familiar story all over again -- strong, aggressive action ~~patrols~~ increased artillery fire -- bitter counterattacks with tanks; and fierce reaction to our probing patrols. ~~[illegible]~~ And in ~~one place, we down on the Luxemburg front, we did withdraw a salient we had extending through the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Some instances, they have forced our troops back --- ~~Siegfried Line~~ -- so you certainly can't say the Germans are completely unsuccessful. -- But THEY'RE PAYING A STEEP PRICE. ~~that's only one part of the picture. To make this a decisive battle we would have to be making every effort to break through the new German crust -- but we're not, yet. I don't know when this big push is planned, but in the meanwhile we're bleeding the enemy white.~~ The First Army alone is averaging 1800 prisoners a day -- and not a day goes by that you don't hear of painful enemy tank losses -- like today, 16 out of 21 attacking. And one by one we're chewing up his pillboxes.

The enemy is still calling on his troops to fight for time - to hold out until winter, to give Hitler a chance to win the war with a secret weapon. For the enemy this ~~is~~ fighting is decisive. For our part we're still gradually inching forward - improving positions here, softening up there -- keeping the meat grinder going. Already a ~~one of the~~ division~~s~~ the Germans brought here from Russia has been badly ~~[illegible]~~ chewed up. We're suffering losses too, ~~and General Collins~~ ~~but General Hodges/~~ ~~risking a single life unnecessarily. We can capture Aachen, for instance, any time we want. It wouldn't cost much. But the command doesn't feel like paying that price. -- On the other hand~~ Stolberg is still being fought for tonight - we ~~were~~ up there this afternoon and nearly got our pants shot off. The Germans are fighting as long and as hard as they can to keep us out of the Reich. But the decisive battle will ~~[illegible]~~ begin when ~~[illegible]~~ we start it.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION AS CENSORED
53
Date 22 SEP 1944
NAME..........No..........
A. E. F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

CBS Hottelet 2346 21 September 1944

Today was a comparatively quiet day along the First Army line. But it was the kind of quiet day that's important, and not at all dull. ~~As a matter of fact~~, When I went up to our infantry positions around Aachen ~~and they got angry when I asked if they were~~ THEY WEREN'T EXACTLY ~~getting~~ HAVING a breather. They were getting less German artillery and mortar fire; but the patrols they kept sending into the town were ~~getting~~ RUNNING into sharp skirmishes. Farther east, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ other infantry was fighting its way from house to house through Stolberg. ~~And this is a tough proposition, because Stolberg is one of those industrial valley towns of the sort you find around Pittsburgh, stretching quite~~ ~~away~~ ~~a way~~ ~~along a river.~~

The main activity seems to have been behind both lines today. Both sides are obviously building up -- we're massing strength for a breakthrough; and the Germans, ~~xxx~~ not having been able to push us back through the Siegfried Line, are building up a crust to ~~withstand~~ HOLD the assault. They've brought in troops from Russia, they've got more ~~tanks~~ PANZER and artillery, they've dug in their tanks and built ~~fixed~~ fresh field fortifications. The enemy seems reconciled to lose Aachen, THOUGH, ~~too rather than waste troops defending it~~, because he's evacuated the civilian population and is holding it with only a skeleton force.

The weather was good today for a change, so our air force went over and bombed the ENEMY rail head of Dueren and other unloading points. ~~behind the enemy front.~~ -- The busy movement behind our own lines was, as usual, ~~xxxxx~~ not interfered with. The letters MSR - standing for Main Supply Road - are as important to our army today as any three letters can be. And I saw some stuff moving around on ~~them~~ THE MSRs today that made me turn around and look again. --- I'll probably be able to tell you more about it soon.

This is Richard C. Hottelet with the First American Army in Belgium returning you now to General Electric in New York.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION
56
Date 21 SEP 1944
NAME..........................No.........
A. E. F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

CBS Hottelet 1301 21 September 1944

We're broadcasting this morning for the first time direct from Holland. That's what comes from being along with as international an outfit as General Hodges First United States Army. ~~which spreads you into four different countries -- take one day's travelling as an example.~~ In the last 24 hours I've been (WITH IT) in Luxemburg, Germany, Belgium and Holland. -- An awful lot of people in north western Europe are going to remember the First Army boys that brought them freedom. And, for their part our soldiers won't forget very soon what its meant to sprawl over so large a part of the map. We're broadcasting from the town of Maastricht, right now. Due east and northeast of us First Army TANKS ~~armor~~ and infantry are pushing against the Siegfried line, and down along the whole Belgian border First Army troops are across into Germany STILL FIGHTING THEIR WAY ~~and fighting~~ through the Siegfried Line this morning ~~slowly~~ EAST OF STOLBERG. ~~raged toward Duren, the gateway to Cologne~~ And from there, ~~the front stretches~~ (THIS ARMY FRONT IS) south along the Luxembourg frontier -- about eighty miles long, ~~this army front~~ running through woods and snaking up and down hills. And even on comparatively quiet days like today - when there are no great operations in progress THERE'S TROUBLE. The Germans are fighting inside their country for the first time since Napoleon -- and they've recovered enough breath after their disastrous retreat from France, to be aggressive again; all along this winding First Army front. Their patrols and artillery fire and counterattacks (ARE TRYING TO STEM THE AMERICAN PRESSURE THAT'S) keeping the whole LINE ~~front~~ alive. -- It takes a good army and good leaders to keep up the pressure -- as we've done without slackening for a single day -- along this whole front. And it takes magnificent organizers AND ENDLESS LABOR to keep supplies flowing through the thousands of square miles of rear area. -- On a trip like this ~~you will see~~ though, you can see that it's not wasted effort. Life is coming back to normal in Maastricht as everywhere else the First Army's been. The Quislings we saw in the town jail this morning will meet justice. And the magnificent paintings of Rembrandt and Rubens THAT WERE stored away for safety in great limestone caves (RIGHT HERE) under our feet will soon be given back to the world.

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

20224 omniindications germans tonight preparing proloss aachen cumdemolitions etforcible evacuation civilians stop eyewitness report viagermprisoner who inside aachen smorning paints picture weird desolation once thriving city hundredfiftythousand stop prisoner had deserted exgermarmy warsaw front week ago etworked way across germany westwards to surrender americansward stop enroute west halted berlin which says dominated viaair tension comma empty streets stop everywhere police patrols keeping order stop his opinion nazis still firmly saddle will not surrender but fight until piecemeal extinction para city aachen ninetenths destroyed mainly viaincendiaries comma leaving eerie shells houses standing stop until five days ago thirtythousand inhabitants remained then police ordered evacuation viaremaining roads northeastward uprounded people outbundled in trucks stop today prisoner says only few thousand left stop they hiding cellars airraid shelters stop public services gas water electricity collapsed civil administration gone stop ss patrols tour streets stop prisoner saw four people shot street probreaking into food store yesterday para addition evacuation germans now apparently blasting buildings into streets order lessen aachens prime value as road center stop reports today also forcible evacuation extended towns eastward aachen para unistates army civil affairs prepared enter aachen first moment etcommence administration first large germcity stop first act will be safeguard interests unistates army viaordering curfew blackout surrender radios firearms

p ge two CBS xxx radios firearms
semicolon
xxxxx forbidding all post telephone telegraph communications

comma ~~forbidding~~ wearing germuniforms except police uniforms comma

singing germnational anthem flying germnational flags xxxxx stop

understand rate exchange been fixed ten marks one dollar dash

which takes consideration nazi devaluation mark enditem

richard hottelet

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEWYORK
PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

will attempt live broadcast maastricht 1201 september twentyfirst

over signal corps 399 viabbc

r ichard hottelet

20 September 44

PRESS WIRELESS

MARK HANNA 654 MADISONAVE NEWYORK

~~letmeknowif~~ you ~~have~~ want any stuff political or military ~~this part world~~ stop how about some pieces Germany comma you name subjects stop any interest general lightning joe collins who colorful character ~~regards~~ stop adress first army press section apo 230 regards

richard hottelet

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

EDWARD MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

Can you arrange have New York give me weekly three or four spots of five or six xxxxxxxx minutes each on the 2230 period stop there loads good color xxxxx ~~which could fill in addition to regularly scheduled news spots~~ para luxemburgwarded yesterday where situation upscrewed stop returned here for aachen story but may try luxemburg again stop appreciate you arrange five minutes or so 2230 tonight or tomorrow night for me tell about very interesting political implications of attitude population luxemburg eupen malmedy xxxxxx stop hope see you soon comma charlie says you continentwarding stop regards

richard hottelet

CBS Hottelet 1300 20 September 1944

The situation along the American First Army front xx this morning x is still pretty much what it's been the last couple of days -- There's no great movement, xxxxxx German resistance is still stiff and there've been xxx local attacks and counterattacks all along the line. The fact that we're not attempting any mass drive right at this moment and also the fact that the weather remains rotten are xx giving the Germans a breathing spell -- they're able to bring up more forces from the rear; and they're given a chance to muster their men and their equipment for counterattacks. These counterattacks have been mainly against the -- well, you might call them bridgeheads, that we hold across the Siegfried line.

I drove xxxxxx south yesterday along part of the First Army Line -- and saw some of the problems we're having to cope with. Down in the Schnee Eifel our men are fighting among steep, thickly wooded hills up to two thousand feet high. Rainx has turned the soil there - and everywhere else, for that matter, into glue. It's torture for tanks and trucks up those long hairpin grades - because even where you have a surfaced road its slippery. -- But it's not only rain. We're getting into autumn now and there's been a thick xxxx ground fog in the morning lasting until eleven o'clock. Coming back from Luxemb urg early this morning we almost neede blind flying instruments in our jeep. -- And even later in the day it's been bad, except for patches. Yesterday afternoon we saw the mediums and heavies go out overhead - and the GI's looked up with very satisfied grins to see them up there again. But in general for the last week xxxxxxx it's been too muggy even for the dive bombers and artillery spotters. --- That's why the lowgrad troops the Germans have against us have been more of a nuisance - slowmoving war is all in their favor. They don't have to maneuver much, the pressure isn't

[illegible]

[illegible]

RMG 25

too great -- and, as one of the boys said this morning -- machine gun bullets are bullets -- whether it's a lowgrade or highgrade finger that pulls the trigger. -- While the poorer ones hold, the better soldiers the enemy has are probing and attacking ~~all along the line.~~ ~~In places~~ the tenderest places. In spots they've showed up with as many as thirty tanks. The German Screaming Minnie rocket gun has also been used against us. -- And at night German patrols have recently been moving through thick woods back behind our lines to try to block roads and cut bridges.

But this doesn't mean we're stymied. You drive along behind our ~~the~~ front and you'll see the supply columns moving up day and night. After all we've come a long way - and with the Siegfried Line broken this was as good a place as any to stop and draw breath. --- Hitler is trying to contain or wipe out our Siegfried Line bridgeheads. And if anyone wants to know what's going to happen next, well look back and see what happened in Normandie and France when Hitler tried to block the way.

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

EDWARD MURROW COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

17200 communications with collingwood seem difficultest stop ~~xx~~ am receiving schedules latest stop unreceived any schedule proyesternight until prewi informed us we had twohalf minutes stop eye unwell fortunately baylor able fill para this afternoon eye presumed eye unscheduled sunday wherefore downsat ~~xxmxx~~ began write cablese piece pronewyork stop at 1805 eye receive message excollingwood informing me eye scheduled four minutes 1831 stop eye barely had time complete piece obtain censorship stop eye went on air translating excablese cumstory certainly not radio shape para eye presently/not possess ~~xx~~schedule next week para suggest you duplicate schedules viaprewi which seems only reliable channel communications presently para stories london press create impression broadcast exgermany never reached unistates stop please inform me whether newyork received and used para unreceived any mail atall stop please inform annie my address first unistates army press section apo 230 stop love kisses all

richard hottelet

Also broadcast to New York

VIA PRESS WIRELESS
CBSXXXXXXXXXXXXXhottelet XXXX0045XXXXXXX X17XXXseptember
XXXXX

URGENT PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

FLASH 17173 germans have transferred FRESH troops ~~from eastern front~~ to reinforce west ~~stop thusfar xxxxx elements two infantry divisions identified first unistates first army front~~ stop xxxx these troops counterattacked this morning west of stolberg but were beaten back more

richard hottelet

17174 addflash first army meeting stiffer resistance today than sofar met inside germany stop germinfantry x smorning counterattacked dash without much artillery cover but with mortar and smallarms fire stop one point they attacked spearhead armored division in xx quote psychological attack unquote which they already tried eastern front dash namely single line shoulder shoulderwards shooting waving shouting as they came stop our infantry surprised such erratic tactics but not too surprised to mow down advancing germans like cattle cummachine guns stop one infantryman quote twas slaughter pure simple unquote stop best proof germattack failed was fact we spent afternoon on high ground west stolberg which germans intended recapture more

richard hottelet

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

Also on Admiral

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

17186 third Siegfried line now officially stated breached three places viafirst unistates army stop one breach east Aachen stretching intermitxxxtently to east of Stolberg stop there ~~several~~ a number xxxxxxxx holes in these several miles but they counted one breach stop other two breaches are farther south in schnee eifel and in bollendorf area where siegfried line consisted only one line defenses para german strategy at moment obviously is to try seal off these gaps stop fresh troops thrown in today were high quality comma had last fought in Russia stop even though today drizzly low cloud germairforce was thrown into area of Aachen breakthrough comma showing Germans xxxx extremely sensitive that particular sector stop held most improbable here that germans will able seriously delay us para in moving forward slowly today past mausbach over inde repeat inde river we meeting indug tanks which potenter than old siegfried line pillboxes stop x we know pretty much where siegfried line pillboxes arexxx comma but these tanks can moved around and the first we know of them is that they fire on our advancing troops para eye spent afternoon up with spearhead of armored division west of Stolberg stop they were havingpretty hot time there but were moving on slowly there and also east of town stop there eye saw example of sort of spirit that x pushing us through siegfried line stop we were watching tanks move down slope toward town Schneidemuehl stop all sudden comma from noware comma tank was hit by antitank fire stop it burst into flame stop two crew members scrambled out xxx etran procover stop xxxxxxxxxx in minute they realized they were only ones out stop they didnt hesitate but returned tank dragged out third man and badly wounded fourth man and brought him back to cover.para

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

Also on Admiral

COLUMBIA BROADCASTSING SYSTEM NEW YORK

17193 fourth today was first sunday liberated germany and eye came back from front by way roetgen which was first germtown liberated last week stop eye had met pxixxx local catholic priest there last week and eye looked him up again today to find how things were going stop he said everyone very favorably impressed by correct soldierly attitude unistates troops stop xxxxxxx some people had believed nazi propaganda we all callous brutes and were surprised and pleased when they found unistates boys attending mass in morning stop ix mxxx eye attended field mass in orchard this morning comma and by gate knelt local woman with tears streaming down face para our military authorities now feel they have reason believe we won't meet much trouble thixx from civilian population in rhineland bxxxxxx partly because good impression our troops comma partly because predominantly catholic rhineland was never too enthusiastically nazi and mainly because people see for themselves war is lost and pointless continue resistance para our military government proclamations comma with/their earnest and civilized tone also creating favorable reaction comma not to mention GI's who will insist on handing out chocolate to children wherever they go para in any case there thusfar been no instance of sabotage against our troops or communications inside germany

The report on these was
"very excellent"   I'll be back in
about 5 days

D.M. BAYLOR WC PRESS SECTION FIRST US ARMY.
FOR BROADCAST ON CBS VIA PREWI SEPT 16TH. 1944. 12:46 LOCAL TIME
PAGE ONE 1111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111

Dr. Paul Josef Goebbels must be a bit embarrassed tonight trying to explain away the American assault on the borders of Germany. He who said that Germany was impregnable, that her soldiers and superior equipment and highly vaunted Siegfried Line would hold any invading army from the Reich, must be racking his brain for new ~~excuses to explain away the~~ propaganda lines. For in many places, American troops are solidly on German soil.

~~In the south, at the tip of the Luxembourg border the break in the first Siegfri Siegfried defenses has been exploited and movement is east~~ ~~in the Nan~~ ~~the city of Nancy has been liberated, and~~ There is fighting South of Nancy and before Metz. Bridgeheads across the Moselle have been ~~strengthened~~ strengthened even though enemy resistance has been heavy.

General Hodges First Army is beginning to exploit the breaks which have been made in the first defenses of the Siegfried line. In Holland, after successfully bridging the double water barrier of the Albert Canal and the Meuse River, they have pushed eastward across Holland and are approaching the German border east of Mastricht, [illegible] the first important Dutch city to be liberated, ~~and the reception given our troops was jubilant~~.

Patrols of First Infantry division troops have been in Aachen, but have been withdrawn. There is fighting ~~southwest~~ southeast of Aachen in the vicinity of Stolberg where armor and infantry are [illegible] encountering [illegible] indifferent resistance in some places and strong in others.

RMB 25

An American ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~staff officer revealed that the First army is fighting now in five countries, France, Belgium, Holland Luxumbourg and Germany.

~~[illegible]~~ I was up in the Aachen area today, and looked a t a copy of a German order for the evacuation of that city. There was a strange contrast in its contents. It began with an impasioned plea to every man, woman and child in the area to do everything possible to resist the invading American and British armies. It assured them that if they would resist strongly enough, and witheverything at their command, the same army which ~~x~~ was unsuccessful in reachig Germany five years ago, would fail again now. ~~They described our armies of five years ago~~ by the way ~~as being [illegible] excellently equipped.~~ ~~[illegible]~~ The remainder of the order gave complete plans for the immediate evacuation of the Aachen area. ~~xxxxxxx,xxxxxx~~ How a man or woman can fight an invading army while he is ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ simultaneously evacuating an area, probably a good many people in Aachen are scratching their heads about tonight.

This is Dave Baylor with the First U.S. Army in Eastern Belgium, returning you to General Electric in New York.

PASSED FOR
58
Date 16 SEP 1944
NAME RMB No. 25
A. E. F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

VIA PRESS WIRELESS

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

UNRECEIVED SCHEDULE HERE STOP WILL SHOW TONIGHT XXXX 2246 for two minutes thirty seconds Siegfried line eyewitnesser unless hear contrarily exyou para please inform london above stop tell them eye unyet heard directly exthem ask them please send me fivehundred dollars postal money order

Richard Hottelet

PASSED FOR
53
Date 16 SEP 1944
NAME RMB No. 25
A. E. F.
FIELD PRESS CENSOR

PRESS WIRELESS, INC.

TÉL. : OPÉRA 72-80

8, Rue Edouard VII, PARIS

R. C. Seine 71.501

DOWJONES NEWYORK

PRESS

y31 newyork 49/46 via Prewi 13 811pm [illegible]

press richard c hottelet war correspondent columbia

broadcasting system

first army [illegible]

please file urgentlytext your wedenesday 22.45 siegfried line piece stop hereafter unwant go ahead stop give time check your watch etwe fit our timing to yours stop london sending more euscohedules

paul gmm white

Shm - RH

[illegible] text 2245 [illegible]

[illegible]

Expéditeur : DOWJONES, 39, Rue Cambon, PARIS

CORRECTIONS APPROUVÉES — HARGROVE - (Carte Nº 4256)

PRESS WIRELESS, INC.

TÉL. : OPÉRA 72-80

8, Rue Edouard VII, PARIS

R. C. Seine 71.501

DOWJONES NEWYORK

PRESS

[illegible] 26 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] all [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Expéditeur : DOWJONES, 39, Rue Cambon, PARIS

CORRECTIONS APPROUVÉES — HARGROVE - (Carte N° 4256)

STANDARD FORM No. 14A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1926

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM: WAR DEPARTMENT

BUREAU ____________________

[illegible] 141 [illegible] signed
[illegible] at 1515 [illegible] will place [illegible]
all [illegible] schedules [illegible] to this
office at 141 [illegible]

16

3—9133 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Hottelet

PRESS WIRELESS, INC.

TÉL. : OPÉRA 72-80

8, Rue Edouard VII, PARIS

R. C. Seine 71.501

DOWJONES NEWYORK

PRESS

37 Newyork 37 14 113pm paid via prewi

-- press richard hotelet columbia broadcasting correspondent first army belgium --

baylor came through well smorning also your snites script arrived early stop suggest view difficulties live pickups you duplicate file all scripts until further notice

paul white

541pm

Expéditeur : DOWJONES, 39, Rue Cambon, PARIS

CORRECTIONS APPROUVÉES — HARGROVE (Carte N° 4256)

CBS Hottelet 0046 16 September 1944

The news is once again very good from the First American Army front tonight -- the city of Aachen is surrounded by infantry, cavalry and armor. It will fall on the word of command. --- All of eastern Belgium, through which the First Army has been pushing into Germany, is now clear of the enemy. Any Germans left here are in scattered, hunted little groups. --- But best of all, word comes this evening that General Hodges' armor and infantry HAVE [illegible] cracked another line of defenses in the Siegfried Line, (~~about ten miles~~) east of Aachen. A report from the front tonight said that this was the last line of the Siegfried line. The prevailing opinion here is that it's not -- that we won't have broken through the whole line until we get almost twenty miles farther eastward. At the moment what we know is that our infantry and tanks this afternoon crushed through a strong line of defenses -- pillboxes and dragon's teeth and all the rest; and that our armor continued on eastward toward the town of Stolberg. We'll see in the course of the next day or so whether they're out behind the whole line or not.

Resistance is beginning to stiffen on the First Army front. The Germans are bringing up reserves ~~from our Third Army zone and also troops~~ from inside THE REICH. ~~Germany.~~ WE'RE CALLING These new reserves ~~are being called~~ the "Goetterdaemmerung" divisions - because they're inferior troops scraped together by the manpower combout. ~~You meet the strangest assortment -- the British~~ WE hit some deep sea divers in Holland yesterday, and troops of our First Army ALSO ~~yesterday~~ CAPTURED ~~took in~~ a whole march battalion of SEVERAL ~~more than five~~ hundred men, ~~prisoner.~~ Ninetenths of the Germans were deaf, and had just been released from hospital. --- But, in places, there are still

CBS Hottelet 0046 16 Septmber 1944

The news is once again very good from the First American Army front tonight - the city of Aachen is surrounded by infantry, cavalry and armor. It will fall on the word of command. ~~The city itself~~ I met some evacuees today who said the town is ninetenths destroyed by our bombing, so it's ~~[illegible]~~ occupation tomorrow will depend on whether we can just walk in or good German troops putting up a stiff fight. -- It looks as if Hitler has once again ~~chosen to concentrate~~ BUNCHED all he's got to fight us way up forward along the border. Now, It takes ~~xxxxx25xxx~~ at least 60 divisions to man that line properly, and Hitler has no more than 25 or at most 30 including some pretty poor ones. That explains the unmanned pillboxes and disorganized defenses ~~xxxr~~ we've been meeting. It also means that the Germans may not be able to make a stand on the Rhine, ~~xxxxxxx~~ It looks as if the decisive battle for Germany ~~is~~ WERE being fought right now.

PRESS WIRELESS
PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEWYORK
PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM LONDON

Unless possibility Aachen falling today Baylor eye luxembourgwarding will attempt appear on transmitter sometime tonight dash will aim for 2230 stop will provide you cumhalfhour uptalk if possible cumfrequencies etcetera

richard hottelet

Paris
16 September

Dear Dick,

I have just learned that Radio Luxembourg has been captured intact and is all set for operation. There is a huge 150 KW longwave transmitter that hits London like a ton of bricks and a 7 KW shortwave which will get into New York similarly but at the moment is waiting on frequency allocation. Morrie Pierce and Irving Berenson will be over there Monday all set to go to work. I suggest it might be worthwhile to take a whirl at it. Its a good dateline and its the best communications in ~~France~~. Europe

A cable from Murrow says that your communications are pretty shaky and that the Blue is beating us with recordings. We are fully cut in on the recording deal and I think you ought to shake it loose from the Blue and take it out for a day or so if you haven't already done so.

Ed is coming over next week and so is Ned Calmer. Ed suggests that after his arrival I go off for a couple of weeks recording trip and then come back to Paris. It sounds good to me and I will see you then.

I have seen your cousins and they are in fine shape and anxious to see you when you get down here again. Arturo has got your

Cl Hottelet ~~2245~~ 2345 18 September 1944

~~The situation on the First Army front tonight is not~~

The Germans are fighting hard tonight to hold their line against the First American Army. They're putting in more artillery than they've shown in France or Belgium or even the Mediterranean. They're throwing in their airforce in terrible weather; and are using troops brought from Russia - better soldiers than we've met since Normandie. -- What the Germans are trying to do is keep us from pouring through the three breaches we've hacked out of the Siegfried Line. They're counterattacking in spots, and even throwing us back - temporarily - a mile or two. --- It looks now as if Hitler were really trying to repeat Normandie -- which is fantastic, because there's no question here of our being cooped up in a small area. And since Normandie Hitler has lost half a million of his best troops. - -- What will probably happen now is that there will be a tug of war along the Siegfried Line for a few days, during which we'll bring up our supplies and rearward establishments - and then we'll lunge forward again. My personal opinion is that the next big breakthrough may well be the last - that the German divisions now fighting along the west wall will be caught the way their predecessors were ~~caught~~ destroyed in France and Belgium -- and that then even the Rhine ~~will~~ may well be no more than a difficult engineering problem. --- I've often wondered if the Germans would ~~destroy~~ shell their own towns as readily as they've shelled French and Belgian and Italian towns. Well, the answer is yes. I was up in the little German village of Buesbach this afternoon, and the Germans kept lobbing shells right into it, without any regard for the town or its people.

This is Richard C. Hottelet with the American First Army in Belgium returning you now to General Electric in New York

18 Sept 44

~~XXX~~ VIA PREWI

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEWYORK

18222 in little town buesbach right in front line we saw how nazi
wardheelers carpetbaggers escaped when things began get hot stop first
unistates troops entered village comma which suburb stolberg comma
ten days
saturday but ~~xxxx~~ previously nazi party officials received evacuation
orders ~~xxxx~~ propopulation stop officials tried persuade townspeople
told them terrible tales future treatment viaamericans
leave/but most refused dash evacuation arrangements chaotic comma ~~and~~
etanyway people saw war being lost stop ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ one woman safternoon
quote only ones cumguilty consciences left stop we remained cumour
homes unquote stop thereupon nazis arrested few townspeople who been
active politically in nonnazi parties before 1933 ~~xxxxxxxxxxxetbackxxxx~~
etbackshipped them rhineward para week ago party people got orders leave
comma etunlost time stop same day column automobiles busses uppulled front
party headquarters comma members wardheelers inpiled cumfamilies
etoffsped theyd
etprincipal belongings/stop ~~xxxx~~ burned all papers para eye inwent town
safternoon cumcounterespionage officer who sought leading nazis proarrest
stop we visited main party hitleryouth police headquarters etfound
shambles ~~xxxx~~ para nazis left without thought prowelfare remaining population stop all civil administration ceased stop ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ unistates
army appointed local priest as head commune because he only one they
could trust etonly one possessing peoples confidence para perhaps as
parting gift germans today still sending artillery shells aimlessly into
town stop their quote volksgenossen unquote hiding by hundreds in nearby
chalk quarries living like animals ~~xxxxx~~ in fear of german shelling para
small wonder when we asked them today how they felt be hands american army
replied quote we very happy the brown ones dash die braunen undash
they are gone unquote enditem richard hottelet

VIA PREWI 15 Sept 44

PRESS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEW YORK

18225 nature unstops prowar stop yesternight colonel james ell
salmon from closplint harlan county kentucky awakened two am
by anxious artilleryman shouting quote whats the policy comma whats
the policy unqote stop salmon outrubbed sleep exeyes asked what
civilian
matter stop artilleryman quote xxxxxxxxdxxxxxxxxxx just came our
post cumwhite flag saying wife about give birth stop what we do
unquote stop salmon quote hell comma let her unquote outclimbed
blankets etdelivered child stop was boy stop will not called adolf
enditem richard hottelet

18226 poking around xxxxx nazi party headquarters frontline town
buesbach safternoon eye found/order of day by fieldmarshal model
germtroopsward revealing degree disorganization germarmed forces after
retreat france belgium para order describes how xxxxxxxx great masses
germtroops retreating to quote new positions unquote and how among them
army
there all sorts scattered decimated/units and official evacuees stop
order quote xxxx cumtheir vehicles roll catchwords comma rumors comma
haste comma thoughtlessness comma abysmal confusion etinconsiderate
egotism stop they can bring an attitude back to homeland and into
of
our fighting troopsxxxxxxxxx in this moment/highest concentration
energy which we must combat cumall means unquote stop order then says
quote we lost battle but we will still win war unquote urges men not
believe rumors comma exercise initiative etsuperall maintain discipline
salute respect officers stop reveals state anxiety among germtroops
cumfollowing admonition quote enemy been losing battles profour years

18 Sept 44.

xxx battles profour years

stop now he winning one profirst time stop but he not magician stop he cannot be everywhere stop if counted all tanks some rumor spreaders claim have seen comma enemy would have hundred thousand tanks stop actually they usually only small spearheads stop sometimes rumor harms us more than tanks stop let courage etdeliberation prevent xxxxhxxxy precipitous measures stop prevent evacuation important positions or premature demolition vital equipment weapons supplies stop every handgrenade every rifle every liter gasoline necessary now proestablishment new recoil line stop they more important than a trunk or frivolous loot para quote remember present moment everything depends on gaining time which fuehrer needs to get new troops new weapons frontwards stop they will come stop soldiers we must give fuehrer this time unquote enditem

richard hottelet